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More than 150 families affected by the Kogilu Layout demolition, who were assured that they will receive "good news" on January 1, are yet to be allotted houses, leaving them in uncertainty. » PAGE 2

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U.S. 'locked and loaded' as Iran protests turn deadly

Trump's threat to intervene against protest crackdown drew sharp reactions from Iranian officials who warned that U.S. interference would 'destabilise' the region and 'destroy' American interests

Stanly Johny
CHENNAI

U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday threatened to intervene if Iran used lethal force against protesters, drawing swift and angry responses from Iranian officials who warned that American troops and bases in West Asia would become legitimate targets if Washington interfered.

"If Iran shoots and violently kills peaceful protesters, which is their custom, the United States of America will come to their rescue. We are locked and loaded and ready to go," Mr. Trump wrote in a social media post.

Mr. Trump's threat came at a time when protests over poor economic conditions in Iran turned deadly on Thursday with multiple casualties. Iran's *Fars* news agency said at least seven people were killed in clashes, including one security official.

> If Iran [shoots] and violently kills peaceful protesters, which is their custom, the United States of America will come to their rescue
>
> **DONALD TRUMP,** U.S. President

> Trump must realize that U.S. intervention in this internal matter will lead to destabilizing the entire region and destroying American interests
>
> **ALI LARIJANI,** Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council

"With the statements by Israeli officials and Donald Trump, what has been going on behind the scenes is now clear," Ali Larijani, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, wrote on social media in response to Mr. Trump's post. "We distinguish between the stance of the protesting shopkeepers and the actions of disruptive actors, and Trump should know that U.S. interference in this internal matter would mean destabilizing the entire region and destroying America's interests," he added.

The protests began last Sunday in Tehran when shopkeepers downed shutters over a sharp fall in the value of the rial. Iranian officials initially acknowledged the economic pressure and promised to address their grievances. But protests spread across the country in the following days leading to deadly clashes between the security personnel and protesters, whom state media and officials dubbed "rioters". On Thursday, *Fars* news agency reported that two people were killed in clashes in the city of Lordegan and three in Azna.

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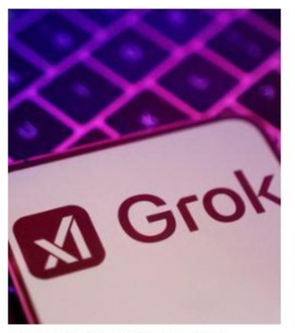
Centre directs X to check Grok misuse in morphing images

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology on Friday directed social media platform X to undertake a "comprehensive technical, procedural and governance-level review" of its chatbot Grok, which allegedly has been responding to user requests to undress or alter clothing in women's photos. Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi raised an alarm over the issue in a letter to Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw earlier in the day.

X did not have an immediate response. Grok operates as a separate Artificial Intelligence (AI) firm under X's holding firm, but maintains an account on the platform, interacting with users. Elon Musk, X's owner, has often praised Grok's relatively unfiltered responses, which incorporate few safeguards that other Big Tech firms have used on their large language models.



Elon Musk has frequently praised Grok's relatively unfiltered responses.

In a four-page letter to X's Chief Compliance Officer for India, the Ministry stated it has "been observed that [Grok] is being misused by users to create fake accounts" to generate or share obscene visuals of women.

CONTINUED ON
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CET-2026 to be held on April 23, 24

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Common Entrance Test (CET-2026) will be held on April 23 and 24. The online application submission process will begin from January 17.

Kannada language examination for Horanadu and Gadinadu Kannada candidates will be held on April 22.

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) released the schedule for CET-2026 on Friday, and this year, the timetable of all other examinations, including PGCET, DCET, KSET, have been released along with CET.

On April 22, from 10.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m., Class 4th level Kannada exam for Horanadu/Gadinadu Kannada candidates will be held at Bengaluru, Belagavi, Mangaluru, and Vijayapura centres.

RELATED REPORT ON
» PAGE 3

Cabinet approves 1,000-bed hospital in Bengaluru for free organ transplant for poor

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a major push to benefit the poor in healthcare, the Karnataka government will facilitate setting up a 1,000-bed multi-speciality hospital meant for free organ transplants in collaboration with Azim Premji Foundation in Bengaluru.

Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil told presspersons that the government will provide 10 acres land adjacent to NIMHANS in Bengaluru to set up the hospital.

"The foundation will invest ₹ 1,000 crore for setting up the facility and is estimated to spend about ₹350 crore annually to maintain it. The government will provide land on a 99-year lease." Facility for kidney, liver, lungs and other organ transplants will be available here, he added.

Sharan Prakash Patil

He said that while the 350-bed facility will come up in the next three years, it will be scaled up to a 1,000-bed facility over the next five years.

"It is a unique model in the country. About 70% of beds will be free and 30% will come at a nominal cost that will also be covered under the Ayushman Bharat-Arogya Karnataka scheme."

Liver transplant facility is being offered at the Institute of Gastro Enterology Sciences and Organ Transplant Institute in Bengaluru that is functioning since 2016.

"The new facility is coming up next to NIMHANS to enable smooth harvesting and transport of organs. Three representatives from the government will be on the board that will manage the new hospital," Dr. Patil said. "More than 5,000 patients are awaiting kidney transplant and more than 1,000 patients are awaiting liver transplant in the State," he added.

When asked what would happen to the current facility, he said that discussions were under way to possibly hand over the management of the current facility to the foundation till the new facility comes up.

The Cabinet also approved compensation for land owners in the Bengaluru Business Corridor for which 948 acres have been acquired. The compensation formula has been worked out with the land owners earlier.

Ballari clash: Case booked against Gangavati MLA Janardhan Reddy and 10 others

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

The police on Friday registered a case against Gangavati MLA and former Minister Gali Janardhan Reddy, as accused no 1, and 10 others, in connection with the clash that broke out near his residence in Avvambhavi area of Ballari on Thursday evening.

A Congress worker was killed in the clash over putting up banners, even as the city remained under heavy police security following back-to-back incidents of violence.

The FIR was registered on Friday at Brucepet police station based on a complaint filed by Chanal Shekhar, an associate of Ballari City MLA Nara Bharath Reddy.

Relatives of Congress worker Rajashekhar, who was killed during the clash in Ballari on Thursday night. SRIDHAR KAVALI

The government late on Friday placed Ballari Superintendent of Police Pavan Nejjur under suspension over alleged lapses in handling the law and order situation. He had been posted to Ballari only on December 31 last year and violence broke out on January 1.

Mr. Janardhan Reddy has been named as accused no.1 in the case, while his brother Somashekhar Reddy is listed as accused no. 2. Former Minister B. Sriramulu has been named as accused no.3, and Ballari City Corporation Opposition leader Motkar Srinivas as accused no.4. In all, 11 persons have been named in the FIR.

The case is booked under various Sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

According to the complaint filed by Mr. Chanal Shekhar, a Congress functionary, the incident took place while banners were being erected in the city ahead of the Valmiki statue unveiling scheduled for Saturday. He alleged that banners put up along Siruguppa Road near the Avvambhavi residence of Mr. Janardhan Reddy were forcibly removed, leading to a confrontation.

The complainant claimed that Mr. Janardhan Reddy, his brother Mr. Somashekhar Reddy and their supporters gathered at the spot armed with stones and wooden sticks, abused Congress workers, issued threats and assaulted them.

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RELATED REPORTS ON
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Xabi Alonso's pivotal week in the Madrid hot seat

Managerial life in the Spanish capital can be challenging when the results dry up, as Alonso is discovering. Despite a promising beginning, a form slump has led to the 44-year-old dealing with boardroom drama, superstar egos and fickle fan sentiment. Given club president Florentino Perez's impatience with managers, Alonso's future hinges on how his side starts the new year

Reuters
Agence France-Presse

When Xabi Alonso was unveiled as the manager of Real Madrid in May last year, there was palpable excitement not just in the Spanish capital but also across the football world at large.

This, after all, was a former Bernabeu midfield general, loved by Madridistas for his trophy-laden playing years. As emotional arcs go, there are few more popular than a club legend's return.

Building a reputation

Moreover, after retiring, Alonso – coached by Pep Guardiola, Jose Mourinho and Vicente del Bosque among others – had quickly earned the reputation of being an elite manager.

He guided Bayer Leverkusen to a historic German league and cup double in 2023-24 in his first full season after taking over. His team became the first to complete a Bundesliga campaign unbeaten, disrupting powerhouse Bayern Munich's monopoly.

Alonso also demonstrated his prowess as an adroit tactician. Having to combat a Bayern side with more accomplished players and richer resources, he fashioned inventive solutions. His ideas were modern and progressive, bolstered by a rigorous structure.

In short, Alonso's move to Madrid appealed to the partisan, the neutral and the 'tactico'. But charged with reviving a Real side that ended last season without a major trophy, how would he fare? Amid the excitement, there were also reservations. Coaching Real Madrid involves navigating high-stakes boardroom politics, superstar egos and fickle fan sentiment. Carlo Ancelotti managed it with great success, winning 15 trophies in two spells, but even he faced criticism in 2024-25. His methods were thought to have outlived their utility.

Alonso's stint began promisingly. Although his side was knocked out of the semifinals of the Club World Cup in the summer, he showed tactical flexibility, utilising both a four-man and three-man defence, whereas his predecessor Ancelotti was criticised for not being adaptive enough. By contrast Alonso was keen to adjust things during matches, including where his players were positioned and how they pressed.

He spoke of playing an "ambitious" game with "emotion and energy", and when the season began, the results were encouraging. Madrid won 13 of the first 14 games, including a Clasico conquest of bitter rival Barcelona. After four consecutive defeats to Barcelona across competitions last season, Madrid entered the match desperately in need of a statement win to validate Alonso's project and it duly snapped its losing streak.

> My mood doesn't change from one day to the next. We need to improve in several areas. We need to give the game a different intention and rhythm, and combine control with verticality
> **XABI ALONSO**

GETTY IMAGES

But things took a turn in November and December. After a win over Valencia, which established Madrid firmly on top of LaLiga, Alonso's side failed to win four of the next seven games, allowing Barcelona to displace it. It also lost Champions League games against Liverpool and Manchester City, as the Basque coach began to feel the heat. Speculation was rife that Alonso would be shown the door, with reports questioning whether he would survive till Christmas.

Two successive wins in the league have ensured Alonso will stay in the hot seat when Madrid faces Real Betis on Sunday, its first match of the new year. But his situation remains perilous, with *ESPN* reporting recently that Madrid was considering its options. The club, under president Florentino Perez, is known to be impatient when the results dry up: the number of coaches who have lasted between three months and just under a year is in double digits.

Growing frustration

If reports from the Spanish capital are to be believed, the upcoming week could prove pivotal for Alonso's future. After the Betis fixture, Madrid travels to Saudi Arabia to face city rival Atletico in the semifinals of the Super Cup. Anything other than a win could put the cat among the pigeons. As recent whistles from the Bernabeu stands have shown, the frustration in Madrid is growing.

One of Alonso's primary tasks when he took charge was to find the balance that Ancelotti failed to achieve last season following Kylian Mbappe's arrival from PSG. He needed to put together a formula for Mbappe and Vinicius Jr. to work together without sacrificing too much out of possession, given their disinclination to repeatedly press and track back in defence.

Indeed, it was always going to be interesting to see whether Alonso could get his superstars to buy into his system. Madrid managers have tended to allow the individual to supersede the collective. The sheer quality of talent at the club has made this work. But in the modern game, where the spaces are more intensely contested, this isn't a consistently reliable method, as Madrid found out last season. Ancelotti was at times exasperated with his forward line's unwillingness to work hard enough for the sake of the team as a whole.

"What I am certain of is that we need and want everyone to defend – the 11 players on the pitch have to be involved defensively," Alonso said before the season started, but it's fair to say he hasn't cracked it just yet. If anything, this requirement has contributed to some bad blood in the dressing room.

While Mbappe's scintillating form – 29 goals in all competitions – has carried the side, the Alonso-Vinicius relationship has not been straightforward.

Alonso has left Vinicius out of the starting lineup on occasion and subbed him off on others, most notably in the Clasico. The Brazilian's outburst has contributed to gossip that the manager has lost the dressing room.

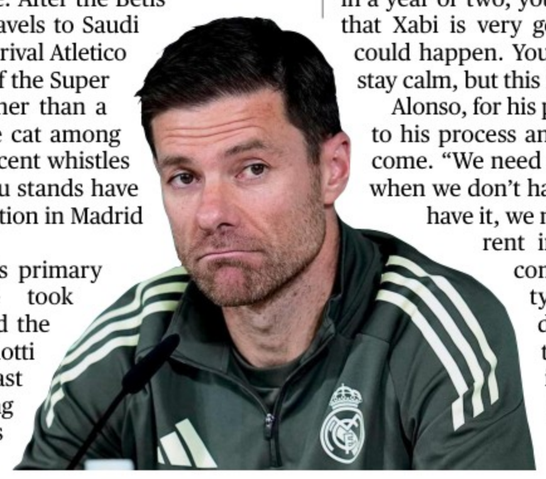
> Here even if you win matches, no one is really happy, there are few teams like that. I am positive that Xabi is very good. You have to give him time and stay calm, but this is difficult at Madrid
> **TONI KROOS**

Francesco Mauri, former assistant coach to Ancelotti, refuted this idea. "Xabi's situation isn't ideal, but I don't think it has anything to do with his relationship with the players," Mauri told *Diario AS*. "It isn't easy to coach Madrid and change concepts. It's intelligent not to be stubborn with an idea if it isn't working. It's about finding the system that makes you win, because if you win everything else becomes easier. It's nonsense to say players try to get a coach sacked. It's an exaggeration. Madrid is like that. Xabi is right now the best possible coach for Madrid."

It must also be mentioned that Alonso has had to contend with an injury crisis, at times missing up to 11 first-team players – Mbappe's knee injury couldn't have come at a worse time.

Madrid's unique pressure

Madrid legend Toni Kroos threw his weight behind Alonso, speaking on Brazilian great Romario's YouTube channel. "Here even if you win matches, no one is really happy, there are few teams like that," he said. "The coach has little time. You can't think about how you want to play in a year or two, you need results. I am positive that Xabi is very good. He already knew this could happen. You have to give him time and stay calm, but this is difficult at Madrid."



Alonso, for his part, knows he needs to stick to his process and trust that the results will come. "We need to improve in several areas: when we don't have the ball and when we do have it, we need to give the game a different intention and rhythm, and combine control with verticality," he said. "My mood doesn't change from one day to the next. I'm also critical in a constructive way, but I put it in context with where we've come from and what's coming in January."

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Carlos Alcaraz	22	12,050	19
2	Jannik Sinner	24	11,500	18
3	Alexander Zverev	28	5,110	24
4	Novak Djokovic	38	4,820	20
5	Felix Auger-Aliassime	25	4,190	28
6	Taylor Fritz	28	4,085	23
7	Alex de Minaur	26	4,080	23
8	Lorenzo Musetti	23	3,990	23
9	Ben Shelton	23	3,960	23
10	Jack Draper	24	2,990	17
11	Alexander Bublik	28	2,845	29
12	Casper Ruud	27	2,825	21
13	Daniil Medvedev	29	2,710	24
14	A. Davidovich Fokina	26	2,585	26
15	Holger Rune	22	2,580	21

Top Indians ▸

Sumit Nagal
Rank 277 ▼ No change

Aryan Shah
Rank 402 ▲ 1 spot

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Aryna Sabalenka	27	10,870	21
2	Iga Swiatek	24	8,395	21
3	Coco Gauff	21	6,763	21
4	Amanda Anisimova	24	6,287	23
5	Elena Rybakina	26	5,850	23
6	Jessica Pegula	31	5,583	23
7	Madison Keys	30	4,335	21
8	Jasmine Paolini	29	4,325	19
9	Mirra Andreeva	18	4,319	19
10	Ekaterina Alexandrova	31	3,375	26
11	Belinda Bencic	28	3,119	21
12	Clara Tauson	23	2,770	23
13	Linda Noskova	21	2,641	25
14	Elina Svitolina	31	2,606	16
15	Emma Navarro	24	2,515	25

Top Indians ▸

Sahaja Yamalapalli
Rank 330 ▲ 1 spot

Shrivalli Bhamidipaty
Rank 480 ▲ 1 spot

English Premier League Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Arsenal	19	14	3	2	37	12	25	45
2	Man. City	19	13	2	4	43	17	26	41
3	Aston Villa	19	12	3	4	30	23	7	39
4	Liverpool	19	10	3	6	30	26	4	33
5	Chelsea	19	8	6	5	32	21	11	30
6	Man. United	19	8	6	5	33	29	4	30
7	Sunderland	19	7	8	4	20	18	2	29
8	Everton	19	8	4	7	20	20	0	28
9	Brentford	19	8	3	8	28	26	2	27
10	Crystal Palace	19	7	6	6	22	21	1	27
11	Fulham	19	8	3	8	26	27	-1	27
12	Tottenham	19	7	5	7	27	23	4	26
13	Newcastle	19	7	5	7	26	24	2	26
14	Brighton	19	6	7	6	28	27	1	25
15	Bournemouth	19	5	8	6	29	35	-6	23
16	Leeds United	19	5	6	8	25	32	-7	21
17	N. Forest	19	5	3	11	18	30	-12	18
18	West Ham	19	3	5	11	21	38	-17	14
19	Burnley	19	3	3	13	20	37	-17	12
20	Wolves	19	0	3	16	11	40	-29	3

Italian Serie A Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Inter Milan	16	12	0	4	35	14	21	36
2	AC Milan	16	10	5	1	27	13	14	35
3	Napoli	16	11	1	4	24	13	11	34
4	Roma	17	11	0	6	20	11	9	33
5	Juventus	17	9	5	3	23	15	8	32
6	Como	16	7	6	3	22	12	10	27
7	Bologna	16	7	5	4	24	14	10	26
8	Lazio	17	6	6	5	18	12	6	24
9	Sassuolo	17	6	4	7	22	21	1	22
10	Atalanta	17	5	7	5	20	19	1	22
11	Udinese	17	6	4	7	18	28	-10	22
12	Cremonese	17	5	6	6	18	20	-2	21
13	Torino	17	5	5	7	17	28	-11	20
14	Cagliari	17	4	6	7	19	24	-5	18
15	Parma	16	4	5	7	11	18	-7	17
16	Lecce	16	4	4	8	11	22	-11	16
17	Genoa	17	3	5	9	17	27	-10	14
18	Verona	16	2	6	8	13	25	-12	12
19	Pisa	17	1	8	8	12	24	-12	11
20	Fiorentina	17	1	6	10	17	28	-11	9

Spanish LaLiga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Barcelona	18	15	1	2	51	20	31	46
2	Real Madrid	18	13	3	2	36	16	20	42
3	Atletico Madrid	18	11	4	3	33	16	17	37
4	Villarreal	16	11	2	3	31	15	16	35
5	Espanyol	17	10	3	4	22	17	5	33
6	Real Betis	17	7	7	3	29	19	10	28
7	Celta Vigo	17	5	8	4	20	19	1	23
8	Athletic Club	18	7	2	9	16	24	-8	23
9	Elche	17	5	7	5	23	20	3	22
10	Sevilla	17	6	2	9	24	26	-2	20
11	Getafe	17	6	2	9	13	22	-9	20
12	Osasuna	17	5	3	9	17	20	-3	18
13	Real Mallorca	17	4	6	7	19	24	-5	18
14	Alaves	17	5	3	9	14	20	-6	18
15	Rayo Vallecano	17	4	6	7	13	20	-7	18
16	Real Sociedad	17	4	5	8	21	25	-4	17
17	Valencia	17	3	7	7	16	26	-10	16
18	Girona	17	3	6	8	15	33	-18	15
19	Real Oviedo	17	2	5	10	7	26	-19	11
20	Levante	16	2	4	10	17	29	-12	10

German Bundesliga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Bayern	15	13	2	0	55	11	44	41
2	Dortmund	15	9	5	1	26	12	14	32
3	Leverkusen	15	9	2	4	33	20	13	29
4	RB Leipzig	15	9	2	4	30	19	11	29
5	Hoffenheim	15	8	3	4	29	20	9	27
6	Stuttgart	15	8	2	5	25	22	3	26
7	Eintracht	15	7	4	4	30	30	0	25
8	Union Berlin	15	6	3	6	20	23	-3	21
9	SC Freiburg	15	5	5	5	25	26	-1	20
10	Werder	15	4	5	6	18	28	-10	17
11	Cologne	15	4	4	7	22	24	-2	16
12	M'gladbach	15	4	4	7	18	24	-6	16
13	Hamburg	15	4	4	7	16	25	-9	16
14	Wolfsburg	15	4	3	8	23	28	-5	15
15	FC Augsburg	15	4	2	9	17	28	-11	14
16	St Pauli	15	3	3	9	13	26	-13	12
17	Heidenheim	15	3	2	10	13	34	-21	11
18	Mainz	15	1	5	9	13	26	-13	8

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Joe Root	867	932
2	Harry Brook	846	898
3	Kane Williamson	822	919
4	Travis Head	816	884
5	Steve Smith	811	947
6	Kamindu Mendis	781	784
7	Temba Bavuma	775	806
8	Yashasvi Jaiswal	750	858
9	Saud Shakeel	734	787
10	Shubman Gill	730	807

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Jasprit Bumrah	879	908
2	Noman Ali	843	853
2	Mitchell Starc	843	852
4	Pat Cummins	841	914
5	Matt Henry	836	853
6	Marco Jansen	825	825
7	Scott Boland	810	810
8	Kagiso Rabada	807	902
9	Josh Hazlewood	783	864
10	Nathan Lyon	760	812

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Rohit Sharma	781	882
2	Virat Kohli	773	909
3	Daryl Mitchell	766	782
4	Ibrahim Zadran	764	764
5	Shubman Gill	723	847
6	Babar Azam	722	898
7	Harry Tector	708	767
8	Shai Hope	701	802
9	Charith Asalanka	690	725
10	Shreyas Iyer	679	710

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Rashid Khan	710	799
2	Jofra Archer	670	683
3	Kuldeep Yadav	655	761
4	Maheesh Theekshana	647	686
5	Keshav Maharaj	646	741
6	Bernard Scholtz	645	648
7	Mitchell Santner	636	657
8	Josh Hazlewood	628	727
9	Abrar Ahmed	624	630
10	Matt Henry	619	691

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Abhishek Sharma	908	931
2	Phil Salt	849	881
3	Tilak Varma	805	845
4	Pathum Nissanka	779	794
5	Jos Buttler	770	794
6	Sahibzada Farhan	752	776
7	Travis Head	713	885
8	Mitchell Marsh	684	694
9	Tim Seifert	683	727
10	Dewald Brevis	680	685

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Varun Chakaravarthy	804	818
2	Jacob Duffy	699	750
3	Rashid Khan	694	828
4	Abrar Ahmed	691	703
5	Wanindu Hasaranga	687	809
6	Adil Rashid	686	747
7	Akeal Hosein	675	726
8	Mustafizur Rahman	665	718
9	Nathan Ellis	660	678
10	Adam Zampa	655	746

No 'good news' yet for evicted families of Kogilu Layout

Sources say that allotment of houses is now expected only after Jan. 5; eligibility criteria has not yet been clearly defined

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

More than 150 families affected by the Kogilu Layout demolition, who were assured by Minority Welfare and Housing Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan, that they would receive "good news" on January 1, are yet to be allotted houses, leaving the displaced residents in continued uncertainty.

Sources told *The Hindu* that the allotment of houses is now expected only after January 5, as the government is still not prepared with a final count of eligible beneficiaries. The sources added that the eligibility criteria, which will determine how the houses are to be distributed, has not yet been clearly defined, delaying the rehabilitation process.

Samyukta Horata Karnataka criticises the government over the demolition of houses, calling it an 'inhuman mistake'. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Meanwhile, an NGO that has been working closely with residents of the locality for several years has revised its survey figures, stating that nearly 180 families were affected by the demolition, an increase of 10 families from its earlier estimate. The organisation said these families were not present at the site during the initial post-demolition survey and were therefore missed.

According to the NGO, all 10 families possess the necessary documents to establish their eligibility. To substantiate its claims, the organisation has recorded video testimonies of the affected families and released them publicly, seeking to ensure that they are included in the final list of beneficiaries. Samyukta Horata Karnataka criticised the government over the demolition of houses, calling it an "inhuman mistake" and warning the government against reneging on its promise to rehabilitate the affected families.

The collective said the government had earlier assured that families whose homes were demolished in Kogilu Layout would be provided houses as a humane gesture for the New Year.

However, it is alleged that the government has now begun diluting this assurance by stating that houses would be given only to those with documents and only to those who are from Karnataka. The organisation demanded that the State provide housing to all families affected by the demolition without discriminating between locals and so-called outsiders.

SHRC seeks relief for families evicted from Kogilu Layout

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) has issued interim recommendations to the State government and the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) following the eviction of over 160 houses in Kogilu Layout, Yelahanka.

The commission underscored that while development works carried out in the public interest are necessary, it is the responsibility of the government to ensure that such actions do not violate constitutional rights, particularly the right to life, the right to live with dignity, and the right to rehabilitation and compensation. According to the commission, multiple cases were registered on December 21, 2025, in connection with the eviction drive.

Acting on the directions of the commission, officials visited the site on December 29, 2025, to inspect the conditions on the ground and conducted hearings with the affected families.

The commission has recommended that immediate alternative housing arrangements be made for all families impacted by the eviction so that no household is rendered homeless. As an interim measure, it suggested that government land available near the affected area be used to set up temporary shelters, including tents, and that hot food be provided to the displaced families.

The commission has called for the provision of clean drinking water at the site and the establishment of a mobile health centre. It has recommended the creation of temporary accommodation along with toilet facilities to protect those rendered homeless from the cold. The interim recommendations have been directed to be sent to the Chief Secretary to the Government and the Chief Commissioner of the GBA.

NIA files supplementary chargesheet in prison radicalisation case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday filed a supplementary chargesheet in the 2023 Bengaluru prison radicalisation case, charging three more accused, including an assistant sub-inspector and a psychiatrist deputed at the Central Prisons Hospital, Parappana Agrahara.

The case already has 12 accused, of which eight, including the prime accused, pleaded guilty in July, 2025. The module was busted in July, 2023, by the Bengaluru City Police. It **The case already has 12 accused, of which eight, including the prime accused, pleaded guilty in July 2025** was led by a habitual offender and red sanders smuggler Junaid Ahmed, who had allegedly been radicalised by alleged Lashkar-e-Taiba operative T. Naseer, an undertrial in several terror cases, lodged in the Parappana Agrahara Central Prison.

The police had recovered arms, ammunition, and digital devices, including hand grenades, but Junaid, said to be abroad, has been absconding since then.

A probe into the case was taken over by the NIA, who claimed that investigations pointed to a plot to free T. Naseer, during transit to court.

Illegal gratification

Chan Pasha A., assistant sub-inspector, City Armed Reserve-South, Bengaluru, one of those chargesheeted on Thursday, allegedly received illegal gratification from a prime accused in the case, Salman Khan, for sharing information about the escort details of T. Naseer with whom he had connections while he was on prisoners' escort duty. Junaid's mother Anees Fathima had allegedly helped Salman flee to Dubai and arranged his travel documents. She was also chargesheeted on Thursday.

She is also accused of handling hand grenades and walkie-talkies on her son's directives, and had facilitated communications between the various accused. Salman was subsequently extradited to India from The Republic of Rwanda. Meanwhile, Nagaraj S., a psychiatrist posted at the Central Prisons Hospital, was allegedly involved in illegally smuggling mobile phones into the prison and selling them to the inmates for cash. "One of these phones had reached T. Naseer, who used it to communicate with his co-accused to conspire for promoting the terror plot," the NIA said.

The accused have been booked under various sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, Explosive Substances Act, 1908, Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, and Karnataka Prisons Act, 1963.

One killed, 2 others injured after SUV knocks them down

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A pedestrian was killed and two others were severely injured when a speeding SUV knocked them down near Ulsoor on Thursday evening.

The deceased has been identified as Rosey, 51. She was working in the housekeeping department of a private firm.

On Thursday evening, she was walking with her relative Mithun, 10. Shailaja, 62, unrelated to them, was also walking next to them on Dodda Kattappa Road, Ulsoor, when a speeding SUV knocked them down. The driver abandoned the vehicle and fled the scene.

Rosey died en route to the hospital, and the other two were being treated. The Ulsoor traffic police have launched a search for the driver. In another case, a security guard riding a bicycle was mowed down by a speeding SUV near Bellandur Lake on Thursday night. The deceased has been identified as Sumit Kumar, 28, hailing from Bihar. The HAL traffic police have launched a probe.

In another accident, Insa Tripura, 24, died after he lost control of the two-wheeler he was riding and thrown off the vehicle.

In yet another case, in a head-on collision between a scooter and a sports bike in Chikkabanavara, the scooter rider Basheer Khan, 26, hailing from Chattisgarh, died. Aditya and Ashwini Acharya, riding pillion on the sports bike, were severely injured.

Couple escape with ₹1.37 cr. worth valuables

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A couple, identified as Shahir and his wife, Hajira Begum, from West Bengal, employed as domestic help at a businessman's residence in Sadashivanagar, was suspected to have run away with valuables worth ₹1.37 crore. On December 30, the businessman and his family went to Coimbatore to celebrate the New Year. They had given the house key to Begum to give it to their relative who lived nearby. When they realised that Begum had not given the key even by late evening, the family grew suspicious. They sent their car driver to check, who found the wardrobes open and items kept inside were robbed, and the couple missing.

Safari ban: CM orders formation of panel

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Wildlife Board meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, on Friday decided to constitute an expert committee to study whether the disturbance caused by safari vehicles is forcing wild animals to move from forests into human habitations.

The committee will also assess the carrying capacity of safari vehicles in Bandipur and Nagarahole.

Amid rising tiger attacks leading to the deaths of farmers in October and November, an order was issued on November 7 to close safari operations in Nagarahole and Bandipur, along with the suspension of trekking activities in human-wildlife conflict zones

Safaris suspended

At the 20th meeting of the Karnataka State Wildlife Board, Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre said that safaris were suspended in Bandipur and Nagarhole following the tiger attacks and that there was no tiger attack outside the forest during this two-month period when the ban was imposed and that there was no loss of life.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Minister for Forest Eshwar Khandre, and Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning Byrathi Suresh during the State Wildlife Board meeting in Bengaluru on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Locals and farmers had alleged that wild animals come out due to the annoyance of safari vehicles and the lights of vehicles.

"In 1972, there were only 12 tigers in Bandipur. Today, there are about 175 to 200 tigers. Experts say that a tiger needs an area of 10 sq km to live freely. But there are twice as many tigers in a 900 sq km forest, which is also the reason why tigers come from the forest to the country," Mr. Khandre said. Anil Kumble, ambassador of the Karnataka Forest Department, called for reviewing the suspension as there was no direct connection between safari activities and wildlife moving out of forests.

Mr. Kumble said that safari operations do not even use 8% of the forest area, and that the livelihoods of many local people are dependent on them.

Livelihoods affected

Gundlupet MLA Ganesh Prasad also stated that the suspension of safari operations has affected local livelihoods and dealt a blow to tourism, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden P.C. Ray said that it would be appropriate to restart safari operations in a phased manner.

Mr. Siddaramaiah after hearing the opinion of the members directed that safari services be resumed in a phased manner and instructed that an expert committee be formed on the issue and to submit a report.

It's open now

Kamaraj Road between Cubbon Road and M.G. Road was reopened for two-way traffic, on Friday. It was closed in 2019 for the construction of Namma Metro's Pink Line underground station, in Bengaluru's central business district. K. MURALI KUMAR

3 children among 6 injured in fire accident

Children injured in the fire being treated at a hospital in Dharwad on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Six persons, including three children, suffered burns in a fire allegedly triggered by a LPG cylinder leak in a house at Hosayellapur limestone kiln area of Dharwad on Friday.

Unaware

The incident occurred at the house of Ismail Horakeri on Friday morning. Unaware of the LPG cylinder leakage, he lit the gas stove to prepare food. The fire quickly spread in the house, causing burns to the inmates. The fire was extinguished later.

Fire and Emergency Services personnel rushed to the spot and extinguished the fire.

The injured were initially rushed to District Civil Hospital in Dharwad, but subsequently shifted to KMCRI Hospital in Hubballi for further treatment.

HDK: Retain Central Bureau of Communication Mysuru unit

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy has urged the Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Ashwini Vaishnaw, to retain the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Mysuru unit, citing its crucial role in government outreach and public communication across southern Karnataka. Mr. Kumaraswamy, in a recent letter to Mr. Vaishnaw, expressed concern over the proposed restructuring of the regional and field offices of the CBC, which includes the discontinuation of the Mysuru unit. He noted that the Mysuru office plays a key role in last-mile communication, coordination with district administrations, and dissemination of Government of India initiatives.

Adverse effect

He pointed out that the closure of the Mysuru unit would adversely affect communication outreach in Mysuru, Chamarajanagar, Kodagu, and Hassan districts, all of which depend on a dedicated field office for effective information flow.

Highlighting Mysuru's cultural and historical significance, Mr. Kumaraswamy described the city as the cultural capital of Karnataka, home to iconic landmarks such as the Mysuru palace and Jaganmohan Palace, and globally known for its Dasara celebrations.

Given the national and international attention drawn by major cultural and public events in the region, he stressed the need for a functional CBC office to ensure seamless communication and coordination. The Minister also drew attention to the sizeable tribal population in the region, including Jenu Kuruba, Kadu Kuruba, Soliga, and Yerava communities, and underlined the importance of sustained communication and focused outreach for these communities.

Mr. Kumaraswamy has requested the Union Minister to extend support for retaining the CBC Mysuru office and to initiate the necessary administrative process at the earliest.

FIDE

The world is huge, right? It's not just a chessboard and pieces

As a child prodigy, a dominant World champion and a university professor, Hou Yifan has lived many lives — and she is just 31. Still the top-ranked woman, she intends to study neuroscience to understand the connection between the brain and chess patterns. She continues to awe the sport's fans from time to time, like she did at the Global Chess League recently. She opens up in this conversation about her unique relationship with the game

INTERVIEW

Hou Yifan

P.K. Ajith Kumar

Hou Yifan became the women's World chess champion at 16 and abdicated her crown seven years later. In all her title matches, she never lost a game. She is the second-strongest female player of all time, behind Judit Polgar. Chess may no longer be her only interest in life: she is a professor at Peking University and is planning to pursue a PhD in neuroscience.

But Hou still remains the women's No. 1. She occasionally reminds the world of that fact. Like she did recently in Mumbai, where she played a stellar role in Alpine SG Pipers' triumph in the Global Chess League. She won her last four games in the league phase to help her team make the final. Excerpts from an exclusive interview Hou gave *The Hindu*:

You have been a regular at the Global Chess League.

This league is very important for the chess world, no matter the format, which is innovative. It is not just the world's top male players, there are women and juniors. In an elite event, girls and juniors usually don't get the chance. There is the entertainment aspect of chess too, while keeping intact the professionalism of the sport. This was my second time with SG Pipers, and it was nice being a teammate of players like Fabiano Caruana, Anish Giri and R. Praggnanandhaa.

> Chess for me represents not just the results. For instance, there is the beauty and philosophy of chess. That I find is more attractive than winning a game

And how did you find working with coach Pravin Thipsay?

He is an experienced Grandmaster and has really good theoretical knowledge. We were surprised by some of his understanding of the position, especially the endgame. We later found out that Mumbai is his hometown. This is my first visit and I have liked the city, the hotel, the location and the food.

You don't play as often as you used to.

Chess is not my entire life now. I have the passion for it, but it is mainly like a hobby instead of a profession. I am trying to participate in the events in the way I can. Sometimes you miss the game and also you miss the people.

Do you miss that winning feeling as well?

Not really. Personality-wise, if you're not talking about chess, I think I am not that competitive. Of course, when I play, I fight for that win, but outside the chess world, I am not like that. Chess for me represents not just the results. For instance, there is the beauty and philosophy of chess. That I find is more attractive than winning a game. Imagine if you luckily win a couple of games, when the position was not winning. So you win by chance, or luck. Let us imagine you are a professional player and you play chess for decades. You won maybe half of them. You didn't win half of them. That is suffering. Yes, I have relatively attained a certain level in my career. I have won most of the games.

You never lost a game in a World title match. After winning your first championship, in the knockout format, you won three title matches without dropping a single game.

Yes, actually I was surprised. All my three matches, yes. And I finished the match even before all the games had to be played.

You have not just been the World champion but one of the best of all time. So stepping away from that, when you were still in your prime and very young and beginning a new career... How did you find that transition?

It is not difficult. I am just following my heart to make the decision at the moment I want. Let us say I know that chess is part of my life, but I also understand that my life could not be lived only with chess. That is why I felt like, you should remember first you are a human, then you are a chess player. The world is huge, right? It is not just a chessboard and the pieces. I do not want, you know, when you visit a place, when you think about something, when there are some stories, you connect only with chess. I know some of the others may not be like that, and I fully respect them, but I enjoy this kind of lifestyle more.

> I normally do not regret what I did. So I enjoy who I am right now. But at the same time, I have to admit, yes, if I spent those years on chess, I believe I should have been stronger

Do you remember when you made that decision? Was lack of motivation after winning successive World titles a factor?

A bit, but I think I didn't really reach my maximum potential. My rating could have been higher. I just thought that I should get a certain education and explore. Maybe that had also something to do with my family background. But I didn't think making such decisions were hard because I always kept in mind that if I wanted, I could come back to the chess world at any time. I normally do not regret what I did. So I enjoy who I am right now, pretty much. But at the same time, I have to admit, yes, if I spent those years on chess, I believe I should have been stronger; my peak should have been at least a bit higher.

Why international relations?

I am interested in diplomacy. So I thought that international relations, when it connected with geopolitics and negotiations, maybe there was something in common. But later I did my Masters in public policy. Now I am working for the physical education department. And I am actually applying for my PhD in neuroscience. I know it is a little cross-field. The subject I want to research is the connection between the brain and chess patterns. If you wanted to find something scientifically connected with chess, this is one of the obvious parts. As a chess player, I felt such research could be beneficial to the players, too.

How do you look back at your first World title?

The first title is always more meaningful and exciting. It was something special for me. More so because I broke the [32-year-old] record of Maia Chiburdanidze as the youngest champion. And she was a legend who inspired a lot of girls. But I didn't really aim for the record, but the coach and my team kept telling me about it. I thought, OK, if I can try, that is good, but that is not easy, to be honest, because most of the players, if you want to achieve it at 16 or 17, it means you study chess for about 10 years. So that is why I thought D. Gukesh was amazing, because to win in the open section at a very young age is even much more difficult. Before my World Championship, I had played a rapid match with Anatoly Karpov in China, and he said I could win the World title. Coming as it did from a legend, it was very inspiring.

In 2011, you beat Koneru Humpy in the match to defend your World title.

That match was the toughest. Not just rating-wise, Humpy was at her peak. She had a very good home preparation, because I remember most of the games, after the opening, I was really in trouble. But I think I was lucky, I tried my best to fight back in the middle game.

Are you surprised that Humpy hasn't won the classical World Championship yet?

Yes, she is one of the strongest players not to have won the World title. But she still has chances. She is playing the next Candidates [in March/April], isn't she?

GAME THEORY

The year that was: best in Tests

Mitchell Starc and Shubman Gill led the way with ball and bat respectively during the year in Test cricket. A look at the top performers in the game's classical format in 2025:

Mitchell Starc

Mohammed Siraj

MOST WICKETS IN 2025

Player	Team	Tests	Wkts	Ave	SR	5-fors
Mitchell Starc	Australia	11	55	17.32	28.4	3
Mohammed Siraj	India	10	43	27.20	43.5	2
Blessing Muzarabani	Zimbabwe	10	42	26.80	42.8	3
Ben Stokes	England	9	33	23.12	40.9	2
Taijul Islam	Bangladesh	6	33	26.57	52.8	2
Josh Tongue	England	6	33	27.15	37.9	2
Scott Boland	Australia	6	32	15.00	30.2	1
Jasprit Bumrah	India	8	31	22.16	47.1	3
Simon Harmer	South Africa	4	30	14.30	34.3	2
Noman Ali	Pakistan	4	30	17.50	30.8	3

Shubman Gill

MOST RUNS IN 2025

Player	Team	Tests	Runs	Ave	SR	100s
Shubman Gill	India	9	983	70.21	63.7	5
Travis Head	Australia	11	817	40.85	79.4	2
K.L. Rahul	India	10	813	45.16	48.5	3
Joe Root	England	10	805	50.31	57.7	4
Harry Brook	England	10	771	45.35	82.5	2
Alex Carey	Australia	11	767	47.93	75.9	2
Ravindra Jadeja	India	10	764	63.66	53.5	2
Yashasvi Jaiswal	India	10	745	39.21	66.2	3
Ben Duckett	England	10	735	40.83	88.2	2
Devon Conway	NZ	5	697	87.12	61.3	3

Travis Head

SOURCE: ESPNCRICINFO.COM

PICTURE THIS

Cycling steeplechase

In cyclo-cross, riders race over several laps of a 2.5-3.5km course which can have sections of pavement, grass, inclines, wooden trails, ditches, very deep mud, and even obstacles.

Described as 'the steeplechase of cycling', it severely tests a rider's aerobic endurance, physical strength and bike-handling skills.

Given the harshness of the conditions, riders are allowed to change bicycles and receive mechanical assistance from a pit crew during the race. They are also permitted to dismount, carry their cycles over or around a hurdle, remount and continue racing.

Cyclo-cross bicycles are light, with fairly narrow tyres and drop handlebars. The tyres are tubular and use knobby tread for traction. The braking mechanism involves disc brakes.

Although not a traditional snow or ice sport, a large part of the competitive season unfolds during winter, which means races can be held on icy or snowy ground.

Many of the best riders cross-train — and often compete — in other cycling disciplines.

But cyclo-cross has grown to such a level that many specialise in it.

Intake of computer science course to be capped

Minister Sudhakar says the Department of Higher Education will form a one-man committee to study and submit a report

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government is planning to bring in regulations to put a cap on the intake of computer science and related engineering courses from the academic year 2026-27.

While releasing the 'CET Guide' on Friday, Minister for Higher Education M.C. Sudhakar said that the Department of Higher Education would form a one-man committee to study and submit the report.

"We are planning to rationalise the intake in computer science and related streams. The freeze on computer science and related engineering streams seats will be implemented from CET-2026, and we will constitute a committee to set guidelines soon," he added.

Sharing more details, the Minister said that only new streams related to computer science would be entertained. "We are planning to bring in regulations on the model of the Telangana government to cap computer science and related engineering courses seats. If we receive requests for some new and emerging streams, like Quantum Computing and others, they will be considered. However, any other existing computer science and related streams seats will not be enhanced. This rule will be applicable to all government, private engineering colleges under Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) and private universities of the State," he added. As Deemed-To-be Universities fall under the purview of the University Grants Commission (UGC), the government cannot impose regulation on them, the Minister added.

"Everyone knows that what was the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) reply when I wrote them requesting to streamline computer science seats in 2023. Now, we are taking action following the court orders in Telangana government's decision in the same issue," Dr. Sudhakar said. "During CET-2025, of the total 1.53 lakh engineering seats available, around 99,000 were computer science and related courses. This year, we have completed the entire seat allotment process and over 15,000 engineering seats left unfilled, of which 9,000 seats were again related to computer science and related streams," Dr. Sudhakar said.

M.C. Sudhakar, Minister for Higher Education, releasing CET Guide, during a press meet in Bengaluru on Friday. Sharan Prakash Patil, Minister for Medical Education, is seen. K. MURALI KUMAR

CET-2026 schedule

- **Physics exam** on **April 23** from **10.30 a.m.** to **11.50 a.m.**
- **Chemistry exam** on **April 23** from **2.30 p.m.** to **3.50 p.m.**
- **Mathematics exam** on **April 24** from **10.30 a.m.** to **11.50 a.m.**
- **Biology exam** on **April 24** from **2.30 p.m.** to **3.50 p.m.**
- **Kannada exam** on **April 22** from **10.30 a.m.** to **11.30 a.m.** for Horanadu/Gadinadu Kannada candidates
- **KRIES** exams for admission to residential schools for class 6 on **March 1**
- **PGCET** for MBA and MCA on **May 14**
- **PGCET** for ME/MTech on **May 23**
- **DCET** for lateral entry to engineering courses on **May 23**
- **CET** for MSc Nursing, MPT, MSc-AHS on **July 18**
- **KSET** on **October 11**
- **CET** for MPharma and Pharma-D on **November 21**

Intermittent power supply

BENGALURU: There will be intermittent power supply from January 3 to 10, from 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. The areas that are affected include Hennur Bande, Samudrika Enclave, Grace Garden, K. Narayanapura, Bilishivale, Asha Township, Aishwarya Layout, Maruthi Township, and surrounding areas.

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There apparently, are some persons who promise admissions and are collecting money from people seeking admission of children into the school.

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Kindly note that the school does not entertain such unethical and illegal practices and the school shall not be responsible or accountable for any such payments made.

Management
Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan Group of Schools

There is an intention to hold elections in colleges: Patil

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Minister for Medical Education Sharan Prakash Patil said that leadership begins at student-level, and many leaders have emerged from college level. With this perspective, there is an intention to conduct elections at the college level, he said.

Speaking to reporters during the release of CET Guide here on Friday, Dr. Patil, who is also the convener of the committee, said that the first meeting of the committee would be held on January 13.

Deliberation

To conduct elections in colleges, the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president D.K. Shivakumar has recently constituted a committee and appointed Dr. Patil as its convener. The meeting will deliberate on the framework and modalities for conducting elections. Based on the decisions taken at the committee meeting, a report will be prepared and submitted to the KPCC president, Dr. Patil said.

The committee includes Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar, Chief Whip Saleem Ahmed, MLAs Rizwan Arshad and B. Shivanna, Legislative Council Members C. Puttanna, Basavanagouda Badarli, H.S. Manjunath Gowda, and Keerthi Ganesh.

'Menstrual leave'

"If the Chief Minister issues directions to provide menstrual leave to college and university students, it will be implemented. The Chief Minister's decision will be final," Dr. Patil said, on menstrual leave.

He also clarified that there has been no discussion on increasing fees for engineering and medical seats.

Five injured after sleeper bus crashes into tollbooth

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A private sleeper bus heading towards Mysuru from Hyderabad crashed into a tollbooth in Devanahalli in the early hours of Friday.

Five persons, including the bus driver, were injured and were said to be out of danger.

The Madhya Pradesh-registered sleeper coach bus of Tranz India Travels was heading towards Mysuru from Hyderabad. The driver was speeding and did not notice the tollbooth at Kannamangala, the second tollbooth on the Airport Expressway, and crashed into it. The front and right portion of the bus suffered major damages.

The injured have been identified as Pradeep, 25, from Mysuru, Akanksha, 23, and Narasimha Rao, 50, from Telangana, Harshita, 25, from Hassan, and the bus driver Irfan Ali, 28, from Bengaluru.

A senior traffic official said that the bus driver was reportedly speeding and they suspected that he might have been drowsy, which led to the accident.

Meanwhile, local residents have raised demands to demolish the tollbooth at Kannamangala, which has not been in use for at least two years now, as it has become a safety concern.

The sleeper bus that crashed into Kannamangala Tollbooth near Devanahalli.
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Pigeon — OTG + 3 Pcs Container Set — Price ₹3814 — Vasanth Price ₹2026
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SPREE extended till Jan 31.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), Sub Regional Office, Bommasandra, has extended the Scheme to Promote Registration of Employers and Employees (SPREE) from January 1 to January 31. The ESIC has urged employers to complete registration early to avoid last-minute rush.

For assistance, contact ESIC Bommasandra at srobommasandra@esic.gov.in or call Ph.: 080-26786393/ 080-26786391

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, JAN. 03		
RISE	06:42	SET 18:06
RISE	18:06	SET 06:29
SUNDAY, JAN. 04		
RISE	06:43	SET 18:06
RISE	19:12	SET 07:31
MONDAY, JAN. 05		
RISE	06:43	SET 18:07
RISE	20:14	SET 08:24

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	20
Mysuru	30	15
Bengaluru	26	20

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be comfortable. Night will be cool and hazy. Spell of light rain and thundershower may occur at few places.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be cool. Mostly dry weather to occur.

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THE HINDU
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Survey finds 83% of voters trust EVMs, electoral process

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The study states that overall awareness of the Electors Photo Identity Card is considerably high across all divisions, with 90.1% of the total respondents stating that they are aware of it. FILE PHOTO

A whopping 83.61% of respondents who voted in the 2024 Lok Sabha Elections in Karnataka have shown a strong level of trust in the electoral process and Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), according to a recent survey commissioned by Karnataka's the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO).

The majority of respondents across all divisions believed that elections in India are conducted in a free and fair manner, with 91.31% agreeing, which includes 6.76% being neutral, it said.

The recent survey covered 5,100 respondents across 34 election districts covering 102 Assembly constituencies in the administrative divisions of Bengaluru, Belagavi, Kalaburagi and Mysuru.

The survey, which was commissioned by State's Chief Electoral Officer V. Anbukumar, said the highest number of respondents who trusted EVMs was in the Kalaburagi division - 83.24%. In this division, the Congress made a clean sweep in the 2024 Parliamentary polls. The trust in the electoral process and EVMs was 70.67% in the Mysuru division, 63.90% in the Belagavi division and 63.67% in the Bengaluru division.

Voting
The study titled "Lok Sabha Elections 2024 – Evaluation of Endline Survey of Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) of Citizens" was conducted to assess the outcome of the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) programme. It reflected strong democratic engagement, with 95.75% of respondents reporting that they voted. While awareness of voter lists was high (85.31%), understanding of online registration, home voting, and grievance mechanisms remained limited.

Findings also revealed high levels of EPIC possession (99.02%) and voter list inclusion (98.18%), though gaps existed in awareness about the voter registration process, especially in Bengaluru.

Digital platform usage among voters was low, with only 18.37% accessing election-related websites or apps. Booth-level officer (BLO) visits were the most common mode for voter enrolment (47.21%), it said.

Overall awareness of the Electors Photo Identity Card (EPIC) is considerably high across all divisions, with 90.1% of the total respondents stating that they are aware of it.

Mysuru division leads with the highest awareness at 96.08%, followed by the Kalaburagi division at 94.10% and the Belagavi division at 93.33%. In contrast, the Bengaluru division reports the lowest awareness level at 81.89%, with a relatively higher proportion of respondents (10.06%) stating they are not aware and 8.06% uncertain.

Right to vote
It said the majority of respondents across all divisions believe that their understanding of the right to vote is true, reported by 84.78% overall. A total of 95.75% of respondents reported they voted in the 2024 elections. The primary factors influencing voter choice included candidate merit, party reputation, and personal integrity. Long queues (51.21%) were reported as the most common difficulty in the voting process.

Political reactions
In his post on X, State BJP president B.Y. Vijayendra said the survey had "exposed" the Congress 'vote chori' campaign. He called it "a direct blow to @RahulGandhi", who, unable to accept @INCIndia's repeated electoral failures, had launched a "reckless campaign casting doubts on the EC."

However, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah took to X to rebut these claims. In a six-point rejoinder pointing to various factors, including the administrative purpose of the survey, its timing and sample size he said, "Over the last 24 hours, an Election Commission survey has been selectively used to manufacture a misleading narrative – suggesting that serious concerns about electoral malpractice raised by Rahul Gandhi are somehow disproved." He said that "a limited, pre-event administrative survey cannot bury criminal evidence, chargesheets, or unanswered questions".

In a press conference, Congress leader B.K. Hariprasad alleged that the survey was commissioned through the government-linked agencies and not an independent constitutional or judicial body.

Niveshak Shivir today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Securities and Exchange Board of India and the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA), Ministry of Corporate Affairs, have announced a "Niveshak Shivir" in Bengaluru on Saturday, to facilitate the transfer of unpaid dividends (upto seven years), providing assistance with KYC and nomination updates with the company and to resolve pending IEPFA claims of unclaimed and unpaid shares and dividends.

It will be held at Sri Y. Muniswaamappa Kalyaana Mantapa, 17, Tumakuru Road Dr. Ambedkar Nagar, Yeshwantpur.

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LITERARY TRIVIA CHALLENGE

1. Which popular Ruskin Bond novel was adapted into a children's film with the same title?
2. Which former Indian batsman, famed for his elegant square cut, collaborated with cricket writer R. Kaushik on the book Wrist Assured?
3. Which playwright introduced everyday English words like eyeball, swagger, lonely, and bedazzled into common usage?

*T&C apply.

Scan QR code or visit https://newsth.live/LFLQUIZ to take the quiz. Top 3 winners* every day win gift vouchers.

Answer to yesterday's quiz:
1. The Secret of Secrets | 2. Marcel Proust | 3. Love Story

Yesterday's Winners:
1. Nagendra Kumar, Chennai | 2. Vikas Remesh, Kannur
3. Charu Thakur, Pune

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Phone: 08472-263202 E-Mail: registrargug@rediffmail.com

No. GUK/Adm/Gen-1/2025-26/304 Date: 15.12.2025

PUBLICATION OF TENDER NOTIFICATION THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL

The Technical and Financial Bid have been called through E-procurement Portal called from eligible and interested contractors for the supply of Manpower services on outsource basis for a period of one year from the date of implementation of work order for deployment of them in various Offices/Departments of P.G. Centre, Aland and Main Campus of Gulbarga University, Kalaburagi. The renderers have to mention their service charges through Karnataka E-procurement Portal only.
1) Estimated Tender amount for one year: **Rs. 8.00 Crores**, 2) E.M.D. Amount: R**s. 12.00 Lakhs,** 3) Pre-Bid meeting date: **09.01.2026 at 11.00 AM**, 4) Last date for submission of filled Tender along with required documents : **15.01.2026 up to 5.00 PM**, 5) Date of opening of Technical Bid : **17.01.2026 at 11.00 AM**, 6) Date of opening of Financial Bid: **27.01.2026 at 3.00 PM,** 7) Particulars of availability of Tender documents: Website No. **www.gug.ac.in** of Gulbarga University, Kalaburagi.

Sd/- Registrar
Gulbarga University, Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/927/KSMC&A/2025-26

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road
Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383 website : www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-70/3086/2025-26 Date: 02.01.2026

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item Rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below:

Name of the Work : Part-A : Establishing 2x31.5 MVA, 66/11kV Substation at KIADB Obalapura Industrial Area in Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.
Part-B: Construction of 66kV Over Head Line by LILOing the under construction Dabaspete-Doddabelavangala line near Hadhihosahalli Village up to proposed 66/11kV Substation at KIADB Obalapura Industrial Area for a distance of about 1.636 Kms using drake conductor.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **27.01.2026** upto **4.00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1,
KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/4810/NR/2025-26

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SAIRAM R/o #4095, Sobha Jasmine, Greenglen Layout, Bellandur, Bengaluru-560103 have changed my name to Sairam Kondaiyampetai Chandrasekaran vide affidavit dt: 02.01.2026 sworn before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, B'lore.

I, MEENAKSHI R/o #4095, Sobha Jasmine, Greenglen Layout, Bellandur, Bengaluru-560103 have changed my name to Meenakshi Kavasseri Narayanan vide affidavit dt: 02.01.2026 sworn before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, B'lore.

I, THIRUNAVUKARASU Arumugam S/o Arumugam R/a No.654, 5th Cross, D J.Halli Main Road, Periyarnagar, Frazer Town, Bengaluru-560005 have changed my name to A Tirunavukkarasu vide affidavit dt: 22.10.2025 sworn before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, B'lore

I, Jyotsna Rani Das, Wife of Late 221306 Lalit Mohan Das, R/a C-11/61, MIG Flats, BDA, Domlur, Bengaluru-560071 have changed my name from Jyotsna Rani Dass to Jyotsna Rani Das vide affidavit dt: 30.12.2025 sworn before XXIX Addl. Chief Judicaial Magistrate, Bengaluru City.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SUMITHA.R, W/o Yoganarasimha. K.V, R/at No.10, 1st Floor, 17th Main Road, 2nd Cross, AGS Layout, Arehalli, Subramanyapura Post, Bengaluru-560061 have changed my name from Sumitha.R to Suma Ramachandra vide affidavit dated 16/12/2025 sworn before Notary Gangaraju.B.N, Bengaluru.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Jyotsna Rani Dass (Name as per birth POR/RCSR), wife of Late 221306 Lalit Mohan Das, R/a C-11/61, MIG Flats, BDA, Domlur, Bengaluru-560071 hereby state that my DOB is wrongly mentioned as 08/08/1943 in my husband's Airforce service records but my correct DOB is 08/08/1941 vide affidavit dt: 30.12.2025 sworn before XXIX Addl. Chief Judicaial Magistrate, Bengaluru City.

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INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only through kpp portal)

BWSSB invites tenders from registered Agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560 009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender / EMD Amount		Last date & time for receipt of tender	Date & time for opening of tender
1	(East)-1	BWSSB/EE(East-1)/PB/ 4029/2025-26 Date: 26.12.2025 (Call-3)	1.	Rs.60,26,459/-	09.01.2026 upto 4.00 pm	12.01.2026 after 5.00 pm
			2.	Rs.1,20,530/-		
2			1.	Rs.67,90,099/-		
			2.	Rs.1,35,810/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (East-1)

Office of the Chief Engineer (North), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560 009.

3	North-1	BWSSB/EE(N)-1/TO/PB/3018/ 2025-26 Date: 31.12.2025 (Reserve for SC category)	Rs. 55,74,962/-	16.01.2026 upto 5.00 pm	17.01.2026 after 5.30 pm
			Rs. 56,000/-		
4		BWSSB/ENTE/TO/3019/ 2025-26 Date: 31.12.2025 (Reserve for ST category)	Rs. 10,61,093/-	16.01.2026 upto 4.00 pm	17.01.2026 after 4.30 pm
			Rs. 13,500/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (North-1)

Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560 009.

5	North West-2	BWSSB/EENW-2/TO/ PB/4238/2025-26 Date: 01.01.2026	Rs. 6,74,035/-	14.01.2026 upto 4.00 pm	16.01.2026 after 4.30 pm
			Rs. 16,900/-		
6		BWSSB/EENW-2/TO/ PB/4238/2025-26 Date: 01.01.2026 (Call-2)	Rs. 7,40,808/-		
			Rs. 18,600/-		
		BWSSB/EENW-2/TO/PB/4238/ 2025-26 Date: 01.01.2026 (Call-2) (Reserve for SC category)	Rs. 23,70,931-		
			Rs. 25,000/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (North West)-2

7	(West)-2	BWSSB/EE(W-2)/PB/4543/ 2025-26 Date: 02.01.2026(Call-2) (Reserved for Category-IIA)	Rs. 72,31,807/-	10.01.2026 upto 3.00 pm	12.01.2026 after 3.00 pm
			Rs. 72,400/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (West)-2

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/4789/AKAR/2025-26

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER, NEW PUBLIC OFFICES, NRUPATUNGA ROAD, BANGALORE-560 001, Phone : 080-22211086 / 22212137, Fax: 22210117
WEB SITE : (http://www.schooleducation.kar.nic.in)

No: DPI-CPI0PRO(OTH)/50/2025-PRO SEC E-2015323 Date: 02.01.2026

SHORT TERM REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTIFICATION

Director (Primary Education), Office of commissioner, Department of School Education, Bangalore is invited request for proposal for the preparation of Detailed Project Reports on infrastructure improvement of Government Schools in the State of Karnataka by interested bidders.

1	RFP Reference No.	**DPI/2025-26/SE0419**
2	Date of Commencement of Download of RFP Document from Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**	**02/01/2026 onwards**
3	Last Date and Time for uploading Online Queries in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal.	**07/01/2026 5:30 PM**
4	Date and time of Pre-bid Meeting	**08/01/2026 11:00 AM,** at the following venue: Office of Commissioner, School Education, First floor, New public office Building, Nrupatunga road, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru.
5	Last Date and Time for uploading of RFP in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal	**16/01/2026 5:00 PM**
6	Date and Time of Online Opening of RFP Applications	**17/01/2026 5:10 PM**
7	Place of Opening of RFP Applications	Online at Karnataka Public Procurement Portal.
8	Date and time of presentation for methodology on the project	**20/01/2026 12:00 PM**
9	Address for Communication	First floor, New public office Building, Nrupatunga road, K R Circle, Bengaluru -560001, Email: primarydpi@gmail.com, Contact: 080-22270072.

1.Tender documents may be downloaded from the web site **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
2. Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sd/-
Director (Primary Education)

DIPR/CP/JA/4815/2025-26

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CEC member visits Bannerghatta park, interacts with farmers

The visit has come in the wake of a petition against the reduction of Eco-Sensitive Zone around the national park

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chandra Prakash Goyal, member of the Central Empowered Committee (CEC), constituted by the Supreme Court, on Friday visited the Bannerghatta National Park (BNP).

The visit came in the wake of a petition against the reduction of Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) around the national park.

Chandra Prakash Goyal (right), member of the Central Empowered Committee, along with Meenakshi Negi (left), Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Head of Forest Force, Karnataka, interacting with farmers and petitioners before their visit to the Bannerghatta National Park in Bengaluru on Friday.
K. MURALI KUMAR

Petition

Mr. Goyal made a field visit to interact with the local farmers and the petitioners who have approached the Supreme Court.

The petition argued that the notification regarding the reduction of the ESZ has excluded ecologically critical areas surrounding established elephant corridors from the ESZ and that the adoption of a one-km ESZ norm for the protected area of the forest ignores site-specific ecological requirements. He was also briefed by senior Forest Department officials, including Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force Meenakshi Negi.

Mr. Goyal said that BNP is a very important national park as far as Karnataka is concerned. "Every national park has an ESZ, and BNP also has one. There was a petition in the Supreme Court regarding some variations in the earlier notification that was published in 2016 and what came as the final notification in 2020. So the petition is that the difference between the area of 2016 and 2020 is a bit detrimental to the wildlife and particularly to the elephants which need to be looked into. That petition has now been transferred to the CEC which I am a part of for putting up a report before the Supreme Court," Mr. Goyal said.

Mr. Goyal said that the next hearing is coming up on January 7 and that the report would be submitted before the hearing. "Panel will submit the recommendation and we will try our best to give some ecological semblance to the report," he added.

Illegal mining

Responding to a question on illegal mining activities around the BNP, Mr. Goyal said, "Mining is banned within one km of the national park or for that matter any protected area so if it is falling within one km, the administration will take a call."

Somashekar, a farmer from Kadajakkanahalli village, said that Anekal taluk was once known as the Ragi Bowl of Karnataka. However, during rampant encroachment in the vicinity, the arable land is shrinking and farmers are losing their livelihood.

Another farmer Shivashankar from Hindalwadi village said that large-scale housing colonies around the BNP were being constructed by politicians violating environment norms.

Leopard of ultra-rare colour variation spotted in State for the first time

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

An ultra-rare leopard colour morph has been documented for the first time in Karnataka, in Vijayanagara district, by wildlife scientist Sanjay Gubbi and his team from the Holématthi Nature Foundation (HNF).

A leopard that was camera-trapped in Vijayanagara district.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sandalwood hues

Unlike most leopards that possess tawny coats with black rosettes, this exceptionally rare colour morph exhibits a pale reddish-pink coat, similar to the colour of sandalwood, with light-brown rosettes.

"Only a handful of such leopards have been documented so far across the globe. Internationally, leopards of this colour morph are referred to as Strawberry leopards. But to honour Karnataka's cultural heritage, we want to name it sandalwood leopard," Mr. Gubbi said.

Karnataka is one of the largest sandalwood producers in India.

Ultra-rare condition

The leopard, documented by Mr. Gubbi's team through camera trapping, is a female, estimated to be around six or seven years old.

The unusual colouration is believed to result from a genetic condition involving either an excess of red pigmentation or a deficiency of dark pigmentation. In India, only a single such individual has been documented prior to this, in the Ranakpur region of Rajasthan in November 2021. Globally a few have been recorded in South Africa and single one in Tanzania.

Unlike most leopards that possess tawny coats with black rosettes, this exceptionally rare colour morph exhibits a pale reddish-pink coat

According to Mr. Gubbi, molecular analysis using DNA samples is required to determine the exact genetic mechanism that has led to the unusual colouration in the Vijayanagara individual.

"This leopard is consistent with conditions such as hypomelanism or erythrism, both of which are naturally occurring genetic traits identified in wild mammals. The current assessment is based on photographic evidence and visual characteristics...Until genetic evidence is available, it is scientifically appropriate to describe this animal as a rare colour morph rather than assign a specific genetic condition," he said.

The documentation was carried out by the HNF team comprising Sanjay Gubbi, Sandesh Appu Naik, Shravan Suthar, Poornesha H.C., Ruma Kundarkar, Ravichandra Velip, Dayanand Mirashi, Sumit Velip, Aishwarya Karanth, and Mayur Mirashi.

Camera trapping was conducted as part of HNF's ongoing efforts to estimate leopard populations and identify key landscapes for large mammal conservation in the Kalyana-Karnataka region.

"This region remains understudied from a wildlife conservation perspective yet holds significant potential for conserving arid-zone species such as the Indian grey wolf, striped hyena, and Bengal fox," said a statement from the foundation. The HNF's research indicates that Karnataka supports around 2,500 leopards.

Carcass of pregnant leopard found on the outskirts of Bengaluru; FIR registered

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A carcass of a pregnant leopard which died a few days ago has been found by the forest department while on patrol in the outskirts of Bengaluru.

Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre on Thursday said that the carcass of a female leopard aged between three to four years was found by the forest department personnel on December 27, 2025 in the Basavanatara forest area of Kaggalipura zone which falls under Bengaluru Urban Division.

The leopard's death was due to blasting at one of the quarries, alleges MLA

Mr. Khandre said that the body of a leopard which had died about two or three days earlier was found on December 27 in Survey No. 51 .

"During the post-mortem examination, it was found that there were three cubs in the leopard's stomach. It is suspected that the leopard died due to a large rock explosion from a nearby quarry and a First Information Report (FIR) has been registered in this regard, this office has been informed," Mr. Khandre said.

Following the incident Yeshwanthpur MLA S.T. Somashekar has alleged that illegal mining has been taking place in the area for some time and the leopard's death was due to blasting at one of the quarries.

He said that he had written to Mr. Khandre about this matter and urged him to investigate the matter and ban illegal quarrying in the area which is causing serious threat to the wildlife habitat.

Mr. Khandre in a note to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden has directed that a thorough investigation be conducted immediately to ascertain whether mining is taking place in the forest area and that action be taken as per the rules against those responsible for the death of wildlife.

Handloom Mela

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The National Handloom Fair 2026, which started on Friday, will go on till January 15, at Rani Abbakka Playground in Mahalakshmipuram Layout in Bengaluru.

भारतीय थल सेना
JOIN INDIAN ARMY AS AN OFFICER
www.joinindianarmy.nic.in

अधिकारी प्रविष्टियां

1. निम्नलिखित कोर्सों के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं:-
   (क) 67वाँ अल्पसेवा कमीशन (तकनीकी) कोर्स (महिला) अक्तूबर 2026 के लिए।
   (ख) 67वाँ अल्पसेवा कमीशन (तकनीकी) कोर्स (पुरुष) अक्तूबर 2026 के लिए।
2. ऑनलाइन आवेदन निम्नलिखित अवधि तक खुले रहेंगे:-
   (क) अल्पकालिक सेवा कमीशन (तकनीकी) कोर्स-महिला -06 जनवरी से 04 फरवरी 2026
   (ख) अल्पकालिक सेवा कमीशन (तकनीकी) कोर्स- पुरूष -07 जनवरी से 05 फरवरी 2026

OFFICER ENTRIES

1. Applications are invited for the following courses:-
   (a) 67th Short Service Commission (Tech) Women Course Oct. 2026.
   (b) 67th Short Service Commission (Tech) Men Course Oct. 2026.
2. Online applications will open as under:-
   (a) SSC (Tech) Course - Women- 06 Jan to 04 Feb 2026
   (b) SSC (Tech) Course - Men- 07 Jan to 05 Feb 2026

नोट:-
1. सेना में भर्ती पूर्णतया पारदर्शी और मुफ्त है। दलालों से सावधान रहें।
2. विस्तृत नोटिफिकेशन और जानकारी के लिए, कृपया www.joinindianarmy.nic.in पर जाएं।

Notes:-
1. Recruitment in the Army is totally transparent and free. Beware of touts.
2. For detailed Notification, please visit www.joinindianarmy.nic.in.

CBC 10601/11/0064/2526

BWSSB floats tenders to give treated water to Peenya Industrial Area

It will provide 4 million litres per day treated water from Nagasandra Sewage Treatment Plant to the industrial area

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has floated tenders for a project to provide tertiary treated water to Peenya Industrial Area, said to be the largest in Asia.

The BWSSB will provide 4 million litres per day (MLD) treated water from the Nagasandra Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) to the industrial area. While the output of the STP meets the National Green Tribunal (NGT) standards,

A view of Peenya Industrial area off Tumakuru road in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

the BWSSB is all set to establish another tertiary treatment plant to further treat the STP output before supplying it to industries.

This would make it 'ultra pure' and increase the acceptability among users, and its shelf life as well, BWSSB Chairman V. Ram Prasath Manohar said. The board has recently done a pilot project establishing a tertiary treatment plant of 70 KLD capacity at Kadubeesanahalli STP and is deploying the same technology at the Nagasandra STP. "The tertiary treatment plant will be done in a Public Private Partnership mode, for which we are looking for an ideal partner. Once we get that, it can be operationalised in three to four months time," Mr. Manohar said. Meanwhile, the BWSSB will spend an estimated ₹27 crore to lay a distribution pipeline of 27 km between the Nagasandra STP and industries in the industrial area and construct a Sump-cum-Pump House and an overhead tank with 5 lakh litre capacity.

"We are working with the motto 'Cauvery for Homes, Ultra Pure Treated Water for Industries'. We are willing to partner with other industrial hubs as well to provide ultra pure treated water," Mr. Manohar said.

Art of carving

The second edition of the Wood Carving workshop began at Lalbagh Botanical Garden in Bengaluru on Friday. The 15-day workshop was inaugurated by environmentalist A.N. Yellappa Reddy. M.C. Ramesh, president of the Karnataka Shilpakala Academy; P.S. Kumar, president of the Karnataka Lalithakala Academy, and Jagadeesh, Joint Director of Horticulture (Parks and Gardens), Lalbagh were present. K. MURALI KUMAR

M. Maheshwar Rao

GBA warns civic agencies against unauthorised road-cutting

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has warned civic agencies against cutting roads without prior permission, stating that violations would attract penalties and criminal cases.

In a review and coordination meeting on Friday, GBA Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao said officials of Bescom, KPTCL, BWSSB, and GAIL must strictly follow the prescribed approval process. "Any department found cutting roads in the GBA limits without authorisation would face fines and legal action," he said. Mr. Rao underlined that permission must be obtained through the 'Marks' software. He cautioned departments against bypassing the system and directed the officials of the city corporations to promptly scrutinise applications received on the platform and issue approvals without delay.

To improve coordination and reduce disruption, the Chief Commissioner instructed all departments to prepare and submit advance lists of proposed road-cutting works.

He also asked them to map the roads identified for cutting on Google Maps, clearly indicating the length of each stretch, and share the information with all city corporations.

Calling for faster implementation of last-mile connectivity projects, Mr. Rao said several works had already begun under the NCAP funding. He directed the officials to ensure timely completion of supporting infrastructure, including BMTC feeder bus services, parking facilities, skywalks, and bus shelters, within the stipulated deadlines. To improve pedestrian infrastructure, he asked the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited to procure five water jetting machines, one for each city corporation, for regular cleaning of footpaths across the city.

Advertisement No. 1/2026
Government of India
Public Enterprises Selection Board
invites applications for the post of
CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR
in
ARMOURED VEHICLES NIGAM LIMITED (AVNL)
Last date of submission of application by applicants is by 15.00 hours on
23rd January, 2026
Last date of forwarding of applications by the Nodal Officers to PESB is by 17.00 hours on
02nd February, 2026
For details login to website
https://pesb.gov.in

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI - 221004
Bid no. E-51/2025-2026 **E-TENDER NOTICE** **Date:02.01.2026**
E-Tenders is invited for & on behalf of the President of India for the supply of following items. Only e-offers will be accepted for which vendors must have Class III Digital Signature and registration on IREPS. The details of tenders in the following sequence- S.No.- Tender No.(Due Date) Description and Qty. S.N. 1, 04251086C, (20.01.2026), **Protection Plate Assly. to, PL No. 29180053,** Qty.: 536 Sets, S.N. 2, 05255268, (15.01.2026), **Wheel Press Machine 500 T,** Qty.:01 Nos, S.N. 3, 09251011, (05.01.2026), **Slip Ring ASM-Mach., PL No. 18022418,** Qty.:515 Nos, S.N. 4, 09251010, (02.01.2026), **Slip Ring Assembly to, PL No. 18021803,** Qty.:348 Nos, S.N. 5, 10251138, (27.01.2026), **Lube Oil Strainer Housing ASM, PL No. 16060374,** Qty.:57 Nos, S.N. 6, 10251309, (15.01.2026), **(Developmental Tender) Fuel Filter ASM, PL No. 16050174,** Qty.:10 Nos, S.N. 7, 10251228B, (28.01.2026), **(Developmental Tender) Repair kit for injector assembly (Kit containing 11 items), PL No. 16040247,** Qty.:480 Nos, S.N. 8, 10251262, (23.01.2026), **Development Tender for Injector Control Shaft ASM-RB, PL No. 16050472,** Qty.:10 Nos, S.N. 9, 10251316, (12.01.2026), **Pin - Piston, PL No. 16141441,** Qty.:8406 Nos, S.N. 10, 10251236, (23.01.2026), **Cylinder Head Stud ASM, PL No. 16040028,** Qty.:9927 Nos, **Global Tender Notice: No. GT/T.NOTICE/IREPS/2025-26/E-51,** S.N. 1, 10251082C, **(30.01.2026), Plug ASM 16 PT (Male for Woodward Governor), PL No. 16340139,** Qty.:313 Nos. **Note:** The details of above Tenders are available on website **www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in** and **www.ireps.gov.in. Corrigendum:-** S.N.: 1, Bid No. 03251038D,Details of Corrigendum: Tender due to open on 24.12.2025 has been postponed and due to open on 12.01.2026, **Note:** All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged for above tenders.
PRO/BLW/S-54 **SMM/SHELL**
/blwvaranasi Website- blw.indianrailways.gov.in

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक punjab national bank
Frazer Town Branch : No. 25, Promenade Road, Frazer town
Bangalore – 560005, Tel : 080 25551128, email :bo1202@pnb.co.in
NOTICE TO LOCKER HIRERS
We hereby notify the Bank's intention to break open the following lockers for recovery of locker rent arrearsfor more than **3 (three) years** as well as locker remains inoperative (irrespective of whether rent is paid or not) a period of **7 (seven) years** or more and the customer cannot be located by the Bank. The lessee to visit the branch on or before **03/04/2025** to avoid further proceeding.

SL No.	Locker No	Name	Address	Rent Arrear
1	BB00235	ANITHA JOHN NINAN	12, LAKE VIEW APTS, GANGADHAR CHETTY ROAD, BANGALORE, KARNATAKA, 560042	Rs.14,160.00
2	CC00018	RAMESH LULLA & RAJ LULLA	23/1 SINDHI COLONY, BANGALORE, BANGALORE, 560005	Rs.16,815.00

Place : Bangalore
Date : 02.01.2026
Branch Manager
Punjab National Bank

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Mode Only)
No.: SE(E)/Tr(Op)/Circle-North/EE(E)/AEE(E)-2/F-T6/25-26/2504 Date: 02.01.2026
KPTCL invites tenders for the following works coming under Transmission (Operation) Circle-North, Bengaluru.
I. Tender No: KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT2903/call-2 for Replacement of existing old 11kV MCVCBS of 11 kV Bank-1, Bank-2, Bank-3 and its connected Feeders by MEI make-DAS and SCADA compatible 11 kV, 500MVA, 31.5 KA switchgears at 220/66/11 kV Hebbal Receiving Station, **"on Partial Turnkey, Two Part & Percentage Basis".**
II. Tender No: KPTCL/2025-26/IND0220/Call-3 for Design, Manufacture, Testing and supply of Five (05) Nos. of 110 Volts, 15A Battery charger set to various Sub-Stations in Transmission (Operation) Circle-North, Bengaluru.
The Bid Documents will be available in KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from **03.01.2026**. Any Additional information shall be obtained from the undersigned.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Elec., Transmission (Operation) Circle-North, KPTCL, UAS Campus, Hebbal, Bengaluru–560024.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
No: - S N T - JU-32-2025-26
Open E-tender is invited by DRM(S&T), Jodhpur for and on behalf of the President of India for S&T work. Details as below. **1. Name of Work :** S&T Associated works in c/w provision of MMLP terminal (CONCOR siding) at SZ station of JU division of NW Railway. **2. Estimated cost of the work :** Rs. 2,68,57,904/- (R/O) **3. Address of the NIT Issuing office :** Sr. DSTE/JU NWR, DRM Office Harish Joshi Marg Jodhpur. **4. Bid security to be deposited. :** Rs. 2,84,300.00/- **5. Last Date & time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender :** 23/01/2026 Upto 11:00 Hrs through E-tendering online submission on IREPS, Tender will be opened at 11:00 Hrs. **6. Website particulars, where complete details of tender can be seen and participated : www.ireps.gov.in Note:** This is a E-Tender, so tenderer can participate through e-tendering process only on mentioned website. **01-CR/26**
Follow us on : /NWRailways NWRailways_

भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण,वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS & CLIMATE CHANGE
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय /Regional office
1st Floor, Additional Office Block for GPOA, Shastri Bhawan, Haddows Road Nungambakkam, Chennai-600 006
F.no..A140261/ROCHN/NSC-RA&Consult/2025/1898
Dated the 17th December 2025
VACANCY NOTIFICATION NO.04/2025
Sub: Advertisement for the engagement of (i) **Research Associate** and (ii) **Consultant 'A'** (Non Scientific Consultant) on contractual basis in **Sub Office Vijayawada**, under Regional Office, Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Chennai
Applications are invited for engagement of each one post of **(i) Research Associate and (ii) Consultant 'A'** (Non Scientific Consultant) on contractual basis at **Sub Office Vijayawada**, under Regional Office. Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Chennai on payment of consolidated monthly fee Rs. 40,000/- for Research Associates, Rs.60,000/- for Consultant 'A' (Non Scientific Consultant). Full details of the vacancy circular are available on Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change website **www.moef.nic.in** under the link Circular.
Interested applicants may submit applications as per the Proforma at Annexure-I. The applications are to be sent to
The Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)
Sub Office Vijayawada,
Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate change,
Green House, Gopalareddy Road, Vijayawada,
Andhra Pradesh 520010
The last date of receipt of application is **21 days** from the date of publication of this advertisement in the Newspaper.
(एस.युवराज /S. YUVARAJ)
उप वन महानिदेशक & कार्यालयाध्यक्ष/
Deputy Inspector General of Forest (C) & Head of Office.
CBC13134/11/0006/2526

Karnataka Forest Department
DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FOREST,
MANGALORE DIVISION,
P.W.D. Building, Opp. Nehru Maidan
Mangalore - 575001 : Phone No : 08242423913
E-Tender Cum E-Auction
(1) "Notification Number/Date": S.A.S:CR.04:Halmaddi Haraju/2025-26/II Date: 02-01-2026. (2) **Work details:** For the years 2025–2027 of the Mangalore Forest Division

Sl.No	Range	Number of units
1	Subhramanya	7
2	Sullia	4
3	Panja	3
4	Puttur	11
5	Uppinangady	3
6	Bantwala	1

E-tender cum e-auction for the sale of the right to collect and transport beeswax from a total of 29 units of Halumaddi (Halmaddi) tree plantations. (3) Contractor eligibility: Registered forest contractors (4) Last date for submitting Expression of Interest (EOI): **Up to 9-01-2026, 4:00 PM** (5) Date of technical evaluation of the e-auction: **12-01-2026** (6) Start and end dates of the auction sale: From **15-01-2026, 10:00 AM to 19-01-2026, 3:00 PM** (7) Delta time for each unit: **15 Minutes** (8) Last date for receiving the tender Up to **15-01-2026, 4:00 PM** (9) Date of opening the technical bid On **17-01-2026 at 11:00 AM** (10) Date of opening the financial bid After **19-01-2026, 3:00 PM**
Further details can be obtained from the above-mentioned office or the e-procurement website. **https:/kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Can be obtained through
Sd/-, Deputy Conservator of Forests
Mangaluru Division, Mangaluru
DIPR/DK/KSMCA/1337/25-26 dt.02.01.2026

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Superintending Engineer, Zone-2,
4th Floor, Annex Building-3, Bengaluru-560 002.
No:SE/BCCC/Z-2/TEND/02/2025-26 Date: 02-01-2026
CORRIGENDUM-01
website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
Tender Reference:
1) Tender Notification No.SE/BCCC/Z-2/TEND/02/2025-26, Dated: 05.12.2025
2) Name of Work: Collection of Parking Fees for Various Roads in Bengaluru Central City Corporation, Zone-2.
With reference to the above-mentioned tender, the Minimum Reserve Annual License Fee for the below-mentioned packages has been revised. Accordingly, the qualification criteria have also been revised in the line with the revised Annual License Fee. The said modifications have been uploaded individually on the KPP Portal.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work:
1.	Collection of Parking Fees Commercial Street (Kamaraj Road) to OPH Road, Main Guard Road from Safina Plaza to Dispensary Road & Dickenson Road. **Revised Minimum Reserve Annual License fee (in ₹.): 95,62,000.00.**
2.	Collection of Parking Fees Dispensary Road (OPH Road) to Kamaraj Road & Ibrahim Sahib Street Road. **Revised Minimum Reserve Annual License fee (in ₹.): 1,19,02,000.00.**
3.	Collection of Parking Fees for Millers Road Junction, Planetarium Road, St. John's Church Road & St. John's Road. **Revised Minimum Reserve Annual License fee (in ₹.): 1,41,52,000.00.**
4.	Collection of Parking Fees for 2nd Temple Road in Dattatreya Temple Ward, Sampige Road, Railway Parallel Road & BVK Iyengar Road. **Revised Minimum Reserve Annual License fee (in ₹.): 1,20,12,000.00.**
5.	Collection of Parking Fees for Mavalli Tank Bund Road, DVG Road in Sunkenahalli Ward, Shankarmatt Road & PMK Road. **Revised Minimum Reserve Annual License fee (in ₹.): 1,36,73,000.00.**
6.	Collection of Parking Fees for Vani Vilas Road, Vasavi Temple Street, Kanakapura Road, Diagonal Road, Patalamma Road & T. Mariyappa Road. **Revised Minimum Reserve Annual License fee (in ₹.): 1,52,93,000.00.**

For all above works Period of Tender: 3 Years + 2 years of extension. Calendar of Events: (1) Last date for submission of tenders has been extended up to **10.01.2026 till 4:00 p.m. (2)** The Technical Bids will be opened on **12.01.2026 at 4:30 p.m.** All other terms and conditions of the tender remain unchanged.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Zone-2, BCCC.

BEFORE THE SOLE ARBITRATOR SRI KUKKAJE RAMKRISHNA BHAT
ARBITRATION & CONCILIATION CENTRE - BENGALURU (DOMESTIC & INTERNATIONAL)
AC No. 377 / 2025
Between
Elite Vehicles Pvt. Ltd.
A Company Incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956,
Having its Registered Office at:
"Prestige Tudor Court", No 40,
Lavelle Road, Bengaluru - 560001.
Represented by
its Managing Director,
Mr. Gurjit Singh, Aged 64 Years.
...Claimant
And
Mr. R. Ravikumar
Aged about 47 Years,
Son of Late Sri Ramachandra Reddy,
Residing at No 736, 1st Cross,
Chowdeshwari Layout, Marathahalli,
Bengaluru - 560037.
...Respondent No. 1
WHEREAS the Claimants above named have filed the above case AC No. 377 / 2025 before the Arbitration and Conciliation Centre – Bengaluru seeking, inter alia, the Respondent No. 1 to refund security deposit of Rs. 14,20,181/- along with interest at 18% per annum from the date of demand until payment; along with other reliefs.
The Respondent No. 1 above named is hereby called upon to appear before the Arbitral Tribunal in person or through duly instructed pleader on **07.01.2026** at **3:00 PM** and show cause as to why such award should not be passed in favour of the Claimant, and defend the claim, failing which the claim will be heard and decided ex parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Arbitration and Conciliation Centre - Bengaluru on 22.12.2025.
By order
Sd/-
Section Officer
Arbitration and Conciliation Centre - Bengaluru
(High Court of Karnataka)
Bengaluru - 560001.
Abhirup Bangara,
Advocate,
Regus UB City, Level 15,
Concord Tower-1, Vittal Mallya Road,
Bengaluru - 560001.

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Malleshwaram Zone,
Office of the Executive Engineer, Rajajinagara Division,
BWCC Building, No.161, 1st Floor, 19th Main, 2nd Block,
Near Old Navarang Bus Stop, Rajajinagara, Bengaluru - 560010.
No:EE(RNR)/KPPP/TEND/02/2025-26/Call-2 Date: 02-01-2026
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)
Executive Engineer, Rajajinagara Division, BWCC, Bengaluru invites Tender from eligible Tenderers registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with PWD / CPWD or any State Government Organization for the Work detailed below.
(Standard Tender Documents - KW-4)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Comprehensive Developments of Roads, Drains, Footpath and Providing Street Light for Selected Arterial and Sub Arterial Roads in Rajajinagara Constituency. **(Package No-02-RNR-2025-26). (Call-2) - Amount Put to Tender (Excluding GST) (Rs. in Lakhs): 1412.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 15,00,000/-**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 03-01-2026, 17.30 Hours onwards. 2)** Date of Pre Bid Meeting on **05-01-2026 at 16.00 Hours. 3)** Last Date and Time for Uploading the Tender Documents: **22-01-2026 upto 17.00 Hours. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **23-01-2026 at 17.30 Hours. 5)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **Will be intimated through KPP Portal.** Further details can be had from the above office.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Rajajinagara Division, Malleshwaram Zone, BWCC.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-2, BENGALURU
BSNL Builiding 4th Floor, Telephone House Rajbhavan Road Bengaluru - 560001
RC No. 1322/2019 **Form No. 14 (See Regulation 33(2))**
Karnataka Bank Limited, No. 13, J. R. Plaza, Near Siddaganga High School, Kanakapura Road, Raghuvanahalli, Bangalore - 560 062.
... Certificate Holder Bank
Versus
Sri A Ravi **....Certificate Debtor/Defendatns**
DEMAND NOTICE
To
1. Sri A Ravi, S/o. Sri A Ananda Naidu, Prop: M/s. All Stones and Greens Having its place of its Business at No. 1, Naidu Complex, 2nd Main, Kothanur Main Road, Bangalore - 560 062. **....Certificate Debtor/Defendatns**
In view of the Recovery Certificate issued in **O.A. No.1207/2017** passed by the Hon'ble Presiding Officer, DRT, Bengaluru on dtd. 29.09.2018 and an amount of **Rs.10,87,001.29** (Rupees Ten Lakhs Eighty Seven Thousand One and Paise Twenty Nine Only) is due against you along with interest and costs from date of filing of O.A.s till realization of the Recovery Certificate.
In addition to the sum aforesaid you will be liable to pay all charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and other process that may be taken for recovering the amount due.
You are hereby called upon to deposit the amount within 15 days of the receipt of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made as per rules.
Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on **04.07.2020**
Sd/- Recovery Officer- I
Debts Recovery Tribunal -2, Bengaluru
Note: Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below:
"Rule 16 (1) Where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debt Recovery Officer, nor shall any Civil Court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money. (2) Where an attachment has been made under this Schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment".3) You are also liable to disclose your assets both movable and immovable to this Tribunal along with the Income Tax Returns of last 5 years.

PROPERTYPLUS
HOMES AND REAL ESTATE NEWS

thehindu.com/features/homes-and-gardens
THE HINDU

DESIGN'S NEXT CHAPTER: 2026 forecast

From flooring to material, industry experts weigh in

Lavanya Chopra

A new year is more a mosaic versus a stark, clean slate, each piece shaped by what came before. From layered maximalism to nuanced minimalism, material-forward thinking to quieter takes on luxury, 2026 ushers in an evolution that confirms there's ample room for diverse sensibilities to co-exist. "The focus is now on spaces that feel like ours, designed to reflect the people and not an editorial look," says Mehek Malhotra, art director, Giggling Monkey Studio. Farah Ahmed, co-founder at FADD Studio, says, "Indian *kaarigari* and creations are omnipresent at global fairs. The world seeks their inclusion in architecture and interior design with more enthusiasm than ever before." This forecast maps what's next for the design landscape.

The writer is a trained architect and design specialist working across architecture, interiors, and the built environment.

Flooring as statement

Farah Ahmed and Dhaval Shellugar – FADD Studio, Bengaluru

Natural stones, terrazzo, and mixed media have magicked floors into storytelling mediums, replacing the lacklustre vitrified tile. Farah Ahmed and Dhaval Shellugar's compelling vision demonstrates that. A hybrid cut-and-casted floor injects new life into a home that FADD Studio worked on with Firdaus Variava of Bharat Floorings & Tiles. "We created intricate motifs out of coloured cement sheets. These pre-cut pieces were carefully laid out on the unfinished but prepared floor in our desired composition," Shellugar narrates.

Shine, reimagined

Amirah Ahamed – Bodhi Design Studio, Bengaluru

Imagery within spaces leans toward balance rather than excess, and architect Amirah Ahamed's work is a fitting testament. Her practice, Bodhi Design Studio, is synonymous with a rooted ethos, albeit with a modernist spin. "Metallic finishes are truly having a moment. Ripple and ombré metal sheets are here to stay," Ahamed avers. Glass blocks, burl veneers, and the use of mild steel have marked their presence within projects, straddling restraint and versatile design sensibilities.

Pantone tints

Aashni Kumar – Aashni Kumar, Mumbai

On the heels of its announcement as Pantone's Colour of the Year, Cloud Dancer has sparked divergent reactions. Aashni Kumar, founder of her self-titled design practice, sees promise in this choice, and her portfolio of minimalist and immersive projects makes the case.

She sees the colour harbouring the potential to drastically transform the mood of spaces. Kumar says, "I find it exciting to use across various material choices, whether it be wood, metal or marble, since a colour like this will reflect differently across textures."

REAL ESTATE

GENERAL

SELLING

RESIDENTIAL

RESIDENDIAL CONVERSION land for outrate sale on Hosa Road near Gattahalli Village-Rysandra from Hosur Road its 5km towards Hosa Road and near Aratt Milano Appartment, suitable for Appartment/Individual House, dimension-10890sqft. Price-6000/sqft negotiable. Contact for details +919945669166

SELLING

RESIDENTIAL LAND

5.06 CENT land @22L/Cent opposite to Kathir College of Engineering, Peelamedu, Coimbatore. Owner Mobile 7544012581, Broker excuse please.

RENTAL

RENTAL – GENERAL

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THE HINDU

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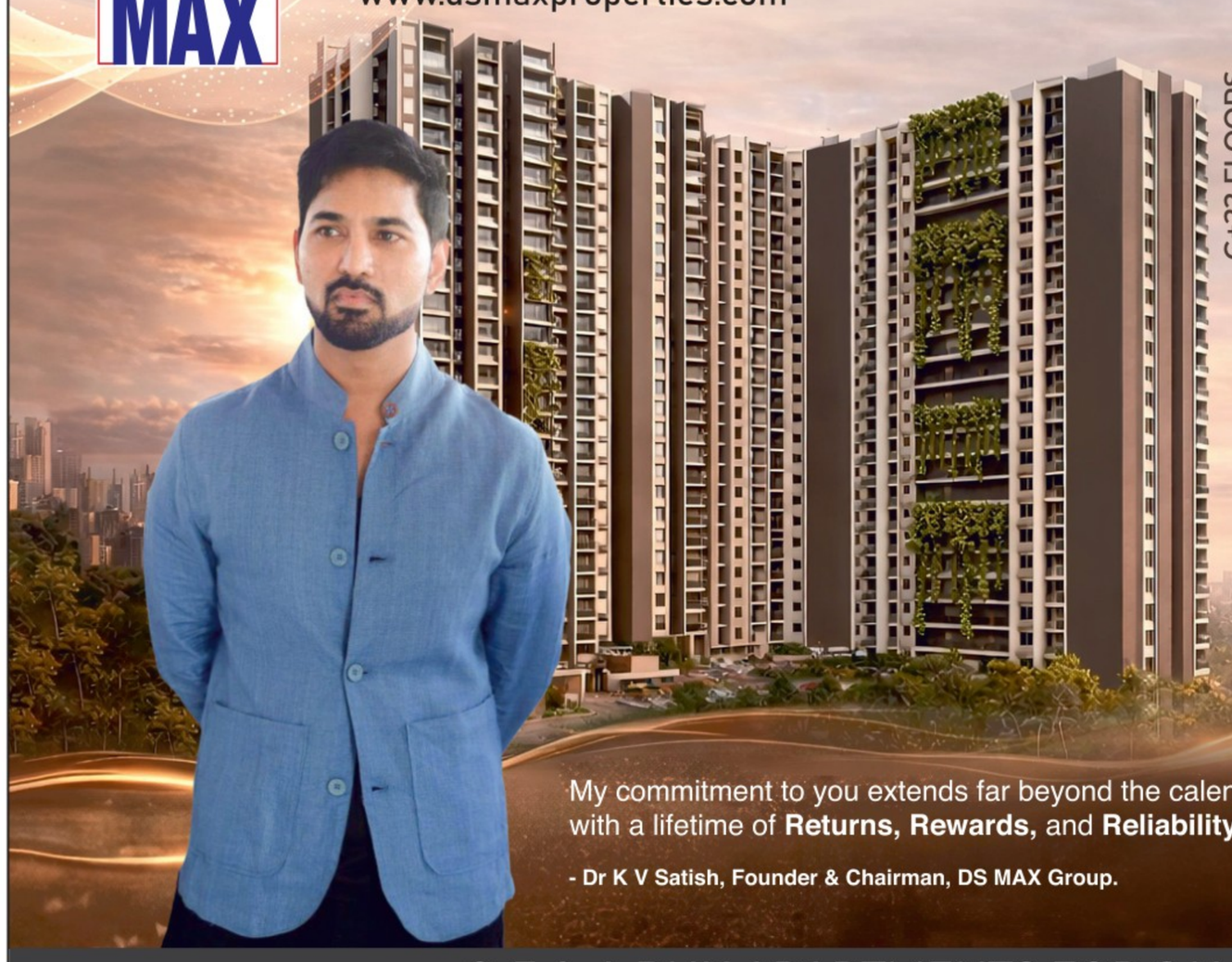

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₹ 1.45 - 2.17 Cr*
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₹ 67.92 L - 1.34 Cr*
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PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/160824/006973 — G+14
BANNERGHATTA RD.
NEAR KOPPA GATE
₹ 62.42 - 82.18 Lakhs*
8880 013 310

PRM/KA/RERA/1250/304/PR/251024/007179 — G+14
WHITEFIELD
10 MINS. HOPE FARM METRO STN.
₹ 77.91 L - 1.32 Cr*
8880 461 461

PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/290122/004660 — G+4
SARJAPURA
SARJAPUR - ATTIBELE ROAD
₹ 63.60 - 83.25 Lakhs*
8880 003 003

PRM/KA/RERA/1251/310/PR/150223/005721 — G+14
MYSORE ROAD
NEAR CHALLAGHATTA METRO STN.
₹ 67.28 - 95.28 Lakhs*
8880 461 461

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CREDAI BENGALURU

BG-BGE

‘Bullet recovered from victim’s body not from police weapon’

A total of 1,500 police personnel have been deployed in Ballari and surrounding areas to maintain law and order

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

The bullet recovered from the body of the Congress worker, who died in a group clash that broke out in Ballari on Thursday, was not fired from a police weapon, confirmed Additional Director-General of Police (Law and Order) R. Hitendra.

Addressing a press conference at the SP’s office in Ballari on Friday, he said that stone-pelting and firing by private gunmen had taken place during the clash, and that video footage and CCTV visuals were being examined to identify those involved. Five firearms belonging to private gunmen have been seized and their licences are being verified.

A total of 1,500 police personnel have been deployed in Ballari and surrounding areas to maintain law and order. Additional forces have been drawn from Ballari, Davanagere, Chitradurga and Vijayanagara districts, and meetings have been held with Valmiki community leaders as part of preventive measures, he added.

Additional Director-General of Police (Law and Order) R. Hitendra said an internal inquiry was under way to examine any police lapses during the Thursday’s incident. SRIDHAR KAVALI

Four cases booked

Mr. Hitendra said that the post-mortem examination of the deceased has been completed and four cases have been registered so far in connection with the incident.

“No arrests have been made so far. We will not make arrests in haste. Even if influential persons are involved, the investigation will be conducted carefully and action will be taken as per law,” he said.

He added that an internal inquiry was under way to examine any police lapses during the Thursday’s incident and assured strict action if negligence was found. Ballari Superintendent of Police Pavan Nejjur has been placed under suspension over alleged lapses in handling the law and order situation. He was posted to Ballari on December 31.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the government had ordered a detailed investigation into the clash near the residence of former minister Gali Janardhan Reddy and directed officials to submit a report.

Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, he said the probe would also ascertain the ownership of the firearm used in the incident.

Mr. Siddaramaiah indicated that preliminary information suggested the possibility of a bullet fired into the air hitting the victim and said all aspects of the case would be thoroughly investigated.

Unveiling of Valmiki statue postponed

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

The programme to unveil the statue of Maharshi Valmiki in Ballari, scheduled to be held on Saturday, has been temporarily postponed in view of the prevailing law and order situation following the death of Congress worker Rajasekhar Reddy.

A statement issued by the office of Nara Bharath Reddy, MLA for Ballari, on Friday said conducting the statue unveiling amid heightened tension in the city could lead to untoward incidents. Sources said the district administration had submitted a report to the government warning of possible law and order complications.

Ballari clash: BJP for CBI probe; Congress blames saffron party

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

Former Minister B. Sriramulu and Gangavati MLA Gali Janardhan Reddy addressing a media conference at the latter’s residence in Ballari on Friday.

The violence in Ballari, that led to the death of a Congress worker, led to a political slugfest on Friday.

Condemning what they termed “goondaism unleashed by Congress activists led by Ballari MLA Nara Bharath Reddy” on the BJP activists outside the residence of Gangavathi MLA Gali Janardhan Reddy in Ballari on Thursday evening, senior BJP leaders demanded an independent probe into the incident and the arrest of Mr. Bharath Reddy.

Meanwhile, Congress alleged that BJP leaders had deliberately provoked the situation over a banner issue and attempted to create unrest in the city, leading to the violence. Senior Congress leader and former Minister B. Nagendra and Ballari MLA Nara Bharath Reddy alleged that clubs and sickles were brought to the spot, and BJP leaders even spoke about using bombs.

Former Minister B. Sriramulu (Accused No. 3 in the case), addressing a press conference at the residence of Mr. Janardhan Reddy (Accused No. 1 in the case) on Friday, sought an inquiry either under the supervision of a sitting judge of the High Court or by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Mr. Sriramulu alleged that the violence was the result of “deliberate provocation and misuse of youth for political ends.” While stating that there was no objection to putting up banners ahead of the Valmiki statue installation event, he questioned the decision to erect them near the residence of Mr. Janardhan Reddy. He alleged that private gunmen linked to Mr. Satish Reddy, a close associate of Bharat Reddy, opened fire.

Later in the day, BJP State unit president B.Y. Vijayendra echoed similar demands and called upon the Congress government to act against its own MLA Mr. Bharath Reddy.

Contradicting claims of BJP, Mr. Nagendra said in a press meet, “A young life has been lost and it cannot be compensated. The Congress has always stood for Valmiki and his ideals, and attempts are being made to malign Mr. Bharath Reddy using the banner issue as a pretext.”

He claimed that the Congress government would not remain a mute spectator and would ensure a thorough investigation and action against those responsible.

Mr. Bharath Reddy said the incident should not have happened and expressed regret over the loss of life. He said the police were investigating the matter and that the law would take its course against whoever was found guilty.

Activists oppose MGNREGA repeal, warn of strain on States

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Opposing the Union government’s decision to repeal the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and replace it with the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-GRAMG) Act, 2025, the MGNREGA workers, representatives of civil society organisations, and legal experts on Friday demanded that the new Act should be scrapped. They particularly flagged the issue of financial burden of States like Karnataka.

Addressing a press conference organised under the banner of the NREGA Sangharsh Morcha, they said the new law marked a shift from a demand-driven, rights-based employment guarantee to a Centrally-controlled, command-driven scheme, undermining socio-economic justice, and federal principles.

They criticised the manner in which the Act was introduced, debated, and passed within 72 hours. The change would affect more than 26 crore registered MGNREGA workers across the country, the activists said.

Nikhil Dey, founder of the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan, said, “The MGNREGA was arrived at through several rounds of discussion and scrutiny by a Parliamentary Standing Committee. This new Act, brought without consultation, is an assault on the right to work,” he said.

Impact on Karnataka

Highlighting the financial implications for Karnataka, economist Vinod Vyasulu said the State had nearly 81 lakh registered MGNREGA households. In 2024-25, about 29 lakh households generated 13.12 crore person days of work, with the State spending ₹573 crore. Under the VB-GRAMG framework, providing the same level of employment would cost Karnataka about ₹2,729 crore a year. Extending work to 125 days for these households would push the cost to over ₹7,573 crore, potentially affecting allocations for health and welfare schemes, he pointed out.

Advocate Clifton D’Rozario pointed out that even under the existing budgetary allocations, the Centre had been unable to ensure 50 days of work per household annually. In that context, the promise of 125 days of employment under the new scheme is misleading, as the Act capped central allocations and shifted a larger financial burden on States.

Major concerns

Several concerns, including loss of the legal right to demand work, restriction of employment to only those rural areas notified by the Centre, State-wise caps on workdays, and a revised 60:40 cost-sharing formula that ends the Centre’s responsibility for full wage payments were flagged. The provision barring work for 60 days during peak agricultural seasons was also criticised for weakening the bargaining power of women, landless labourers, and other marginalised groups.

Kuvempu Bhasha Bharathi Pradhikara to present awards

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Kuvempu Bhasha Bharathi Pradhikara, will hold a literary event on January 9 to present the 2025 Annual Honorary Awards and the 2024 Book Awards.

Eminent personalities J.V. Karlo, Prof. Vanamala Viswanatha, Dr. K.R. Sandhya Reddy, Dr. Vittalarao T. Gaikwad, and Dr. J.P. Doddamani will receive the honorary awards. The Book Awards will be conferred on Dr. Nataraj Honnavalli, Dr. Sadanand R, Karthik R, Dr. Malleshappa Siddarampura, and Dr. Devaraj N for their outstanding literary contributions.

From Page One

Case booked against Janardhan Reddy

He alleged that Satish Reddy, an associate of Mr. Bharath Reddy, sustained a head injury after being hit with a stone, while Hanumanthappa, gunman Basavaraj and a police constable, Srinivasa, were also injured while trying to intervene. The injured were later shifted to hospital, and the complainant sought strict legal action against those involved.

Following two clashes reported in the city on Thursday, the police imposed a tight security blanket around Mr. Janardhan Reddy’s residence and sensitive areas, including Valmiki Circle.

Additional police forces were brought in from neighbouring districts.Meanwhile, Mr. Bharath Reddy visited the Ballari Medical College and Research Centre’s hospital to pay his last respects to Congress worker Rajashekhar, who was killed during the clash on Thursday, and consoled the bereaved family.

Two held for posts against Darshan’s wife

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Police have arrested two persons, a techie from Davangere and an autorickshaw driver from Bengaluru, for alleged defamatory and obscene posts on social media against actor Darshan’s wife Vijaylakshmi. The accused have been identified as Chandrashekhar, 45, autorickshaw driver, from Chikkabanavara, and Nithin, 31, a techie.

Actor Darshan’s wife Vijayalakshmi on December 24 lodged a complaint with the Cybercrime police in Bengaluru against 18 social media accounts that had obscene and defamatory posts against her.

Government of Karnataka
Abdul Nazir Sab State Institute of Rural Development & Panchayth Raj
Lalitha Mahal Road, Mysore -570011 Telephone:0821-2522901/906
E-mail:sird-mysore@ka.gov.in

No: SIRDPR-ADMOEST2/5/2024 Dated: 01.01.2026

NOTIFICATION

Tender is invited through Karnataka Government e-procurement portal as per KTPP Act 1999 Rules 2000 for procurement of Manpower Services for the Institute and its subordinate institutions for a period of 01 Year. Date: **30.01.2026** Time **3.00** PM would be the last Date & Time for submission of tender. For more details visit website: https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in or Contact 0821-2522903/906

Sd/-
Director ANSSIRD&PR
Mysuru

DIPR/MYSORE/1465/Shirdisai/2025-26

RURAL DRINKING WATER & SANITATION DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, RDW&S Division, Bangalore Rural, Beerasandra, Devanahalli Taluk,
E-mail: eerdwsd.bngr1@gmail.com Phone: 080-29787463

ಸಂ: ಕಾಇಂ/ಗ್ರಾ.ಕು.ನೀ&ನೈವಿ/ಬೆಂ.ಗ್ರಾ/ಟೆ.ಪ್ರ/2025–26/968 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01.01.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 19/2025-26
(Through K.P.P Portal Only)

Tenders are invited on behalf of Governer of Karnataka according to KTTP Act 2000 under 2021-22, 2215 H/A under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) to Provide FHTCs to House Holds in Bangalore Rural District & SLWM Grama Panchayat Work (Standard Tender Document KW-2, KW-3 & KW-4) Application & EMD Payment to be done through K.P.P Portal.

General Conditions: 1) Contractor has to upload Document in online only. **2)** All Qualifying documents has to be attached in online.

(1) Tender Schedule can be downloaded through website from: **02.01.2026 after 4.00 P.M. (2)** Tender Pre-Bid meeting Date & Place: **05.01.2026 @11.00 A.M** at Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Bangalore Rural, Beerasandra, Devanahalli Taluk. **(3)** Last date for tender uploading: **16.01.2026 upto 4.00 P.M. (4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **17.01.2026 at 4.00 P.M. (5)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **19.01.2026 at 11.00 A.M**

Further details can be obtained from the Office of the undersigned and also through K.P.P Portal: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
RDW&S Division, Bangalore Rural

DIPR/CP/SPAN/4771/2025-26

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public that my client **MR. RAMASWAMIAH MANJUNATH GUBBI**, S/o Mr. G. N. Ramaswamiah, Aged about 58 years, Residing at Blaumeisenweg 3, 70499, Germany, has revoked and cancelled the Power of Attorney dated **15/12/2015**, which was earlier executed by him in favour of his sister SMT. G. R. PARVATI, D/o Mr. G. N. Ramaswamiah, Residing at No. 2203/G, Apartment No. 102, “Himachal”, 23rd Cross, BSK II Stage, Bengaluru – 560070. The said Power of Attorney stands revoked with immediate effect, and Smt. G. R. Parvati no longer has any right, authority, or power to act or represent my client in any manner whatsoever. The general public, banks, financial institutions, authorities, and all concerned are hereby cautioned not to deal with Smt. G. R. Parvati in any capacity claiming to be the Power of Attorney holder of my client. Any such dealings shall be at their own risk and consequences, and my client shall not be responsible or liable for the same.

S.K. MITHUN Advocate,
No.19/1, 3rd Cross, Shankarpura,
BANGALORE- 560 004 Ph-9845366658

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that our clients **Mr. Manoj Shanmugasundaram,** aged about 44 years, Son of Mr. T.N. Shanmugasundaram, Residing at No.280, 2nd Cross, Sai Baba Temple, Cambridge Layout, Bangalore – 560 008 with Aadhaar No.9161 9651 4542, being the owner of property bearing Site No.280, having BBMP EPID No.5014390959, Property No.33, Cambridge Road Extension, measuring East to West: 45 feet and North to South:30 feet, in all measuring 1350 Square feet along with the building consisting thereon, affirm that the original Sale deed 01.10.1982, which is registered as Document No.2288/1982-83 of Book-1, registered on 30.10.1982 in the office of the Sub-registrar, Shivajinagara, Bangalore, has been lost/misplaced and have not been mortgaged/pledged as collateral security and is not in position to trace the original documents. Our clients have given police complaint, bearing Lost Article Report Serial No.1988005/2026, dated 02/01/2026, before the Crime Branch, Bangalore City Police, Bangalore about the said lost/misplaced documents.

Any person/s in possession of the aforesaid document may return the same to us or anyone having any sort of claim over the said property may lodge their objections in writing along with evidence, **within 15 days** from this day to the undersigned.

LEGAL NEXUS ADVOCATES & CONSULTANTS
No.428, 1st Floor, 25th Cross, 24th Main,
2nd Sector, HSR Layout, Bangalore – 560 102
Mobile: 9945688974; 6360160289

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that my client intends to purchase the property described in the schedule hereunder from its present owners namely **(1) Mr. V. Parameshwar,** son of Mr. P. Viswanathan and **(2) Mrs. Vijaya K R** W/o. Mr. V. Parameshwar, both residing at B-01, Legacy Soreno, 5th Main, Near Bescom Office, Kodigehalli, Bengaluru - 560092, they having acquired title to the same under a Sale Deed dated 18.10.2010 registered as Document No. YPR-1-01692-2010-11 in Book I, stored in CD No.YPRD22 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Yeshwantpura, Bengaluru.

All persons/ firms/ companies/ banks/ financial institutions having or claiming any share, right, title, estate or interest by way of inheritance, sale, mortgage, transfer, lease, tenancy, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, devise, bequest, exchange, pre-emption, possession or encumbrance or otherwise howsoever into or upon the Schedule Property herein below described are called upon to intimate the same in writing to the undersigned at the below given address along with all the documents relating to such claim within **14 days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which any such claim of any party shall be deemed to have been waived for all legal practical purposes and shall not be entertained hereafter and I shall opine that the Schedule Property is free of any claims and my client will be free to proceed with the proposed purchase of the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All piece and parcel of property being **Apartment No. C** on the **1st Floor** in residential building known as **"SUSHEELCHANDRA APARTMENTS"** bearing Municipal No. 2/2, PID No. 7-36-2/2, measuring super built up area of about 1393 Sq Ft (129.46 Sq mtrs) with floor, ceiling and walls between apartments jointly belonging to such apartment owners equally including proportionate share of common area along with open Car parking unit in the South Western Corner of the larger property situated at No. 2, 17th A Cross, Malleshwaram Bengaluru together with 1393/7906 undivided share, right, title and interest in the land which is equivalent to 786.97 Sq ft (73.13 Sq meters) of land and 17.67 Sq mtrs of old building and the larger property is bounded on :-

East by : Property belonging EVS Iyer,
West by : 10th A Main Road.
North by : 17th A Cross,
South by : Koutinya Manor

Vivek Anand Anthony Britto
Vir Anthony Britto
Advocates
“Daisville”, 633, 5th Main, Indiranagar
II Stage, Bengaluru-560038
Place: Bengaluru Date: 03.01.2026

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

In Memoriam

Geeta Doctor
(11-6-1943 - 31-12-2025)
May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.
The Irish Blessing
Daughter of (late) **K.V.Padmanabhan** and **Padma Padmanabhan**
Wife of (late) **Girish Chimanlal Doctor**
Remembered by
Meenakshi Doctor and **Vikram Doctor**
Surya Narayanan and **Manjula Padmanabhan**
Divya Narayanan
Ranjit Shankar
Maithreyi Shankar
Please send condolences, wishes and any memories to
geeta.doctor.memorial@gmail.com

DEATH

BALASUBRAMANIAM
aged 77, of Valmiki Nagar, Chennai, passed away on 02.01.26 in Mumbai.
S/o. C K Sundaram
(TISCO, Bhilai Steel Plant) and Subbulakshmi (Madurai).
Alumnus of IIT Mumbai (1970) and formerly with HMT & Chettinad Logistics.
Survived by
Wife: **Pushpa**, Daughters: **Aparna** & **Maya**, Sister: **Leela**, Sons-in-law: **Subash** & **Giridhar** and three **Grandchildren.**
Condolences:
Pushpa - 98407 60797
Aparna - 91369 31134
Maya - 90940 27797

REMEMBRANCE

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Maj.Gen Sanjeev Narain, AVSM (Retd)
04.11.1960 - 03.01.2024
Your light and laughter live on.
Deeply missed by
Mrs.Bindiya Narain (wife)
Children, Grandchildren, family and friends.

INBRIEF

Gold theft case: BJP leader calls for Central agency probe

Indicating his lack of confidence in the probe by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) in the gold theft case linked to the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple, former Kerala BJP president K. Surendran has demanded an investigation by a Central agency "to nab the real culprits." Speaking at a press conference here on Friday, Mr. Surendran alleged that leaders of both the Left Democratic Front (LDF) and the United Democratic Front (UDF) are involved in the theft.

Phase- 2 of Kerala's medical insurance scheme deferred

The Kerala government has deferred the launch of Phase II of the Medical Insurance Scheme for State Employees and Pensioners (Medisep) because of technical issues. The phase one will continue for the time being. Phase II, with enhanced insurance coverage and increased premium rate, was to be launched on January 1. The launch was deferred because the Finance department is trying to get the scheme exempted from GST and a decision on it is yet to happen.

Kerala Electricity Board to collect fuel surcharge in Jan.

The Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) will collect 7 paise per unit from bimonthly-billed consumers and 8 paise per unit from monthly-billed consumers as thermal fuel surcharge on electricity bills in January. The surcharge is meant to recover ₹18.45 crore spent additionally on power purchases in November 2025 on account of the price variations of fuel. The surcharge is on account of the variations in the spending from 18 generating stations.

Karnataka may bring out its own rural job scheme

It is likely to start a movement against the VB-G RAM G Act; Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is expected to spell out the State government's plan today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Congress government in Karnataka is likely to start a movement against the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Act, 2025, and is expected to bring out scheme/ legislation to sustain rural livelihood and employment guarantee.

On Thursday, the Cabinet condemned the repealing of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is expected to spell out the State government's move on Saturday.

Government sources said that the employment and labour were in concurrent list, and that the State government is empowered to have its own legislation despite a Central legislation.

"There is a possibility that the State will have its own legislation or scheme to implement the rural employment guarantee. As it is the Centre is not providing much to the State under the NREGA. There could be an andolan (movement) against the new Act that heavily favours the contractors," said the source.

"The 73rd Constitutional amendment had sought decentralisation of powers and encouraged bottom to top approach in rural development by providing powers to panchayats. Karnataka has also enacted Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj Act to this effect," Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil told presspersons here in his post Cabinet briefing.

Stating that the new legislation has turned the present panchayat raj system upside down, he said, "The new Act seeks to centralise powers. It will now decide which panchayat can take what kind of work to be implemented. Also, it increases the financial burden on the State. Currently, under the rural employment guarantee scheme, a large number of assets at the village level had been created."

The State Cabinet condemned the repealing of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act on Thursday.

New 153-acre lung space proposed for Bengaluru in the name of Basavanna

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

More than 150 years after the last big lung space was created in Bengaluru, the State government on Friday approved setting up of Vishwaguru Basavanna Biodiversity Park on 153 acres in North Bengaluru with an initial funding of ₹50 crore.

"The dream of having a large lung space in northern part of Bengaluru is more than a-decade-and-a-half old. Finally, the government has agreed to fund ₹50 crore in the first phase while the overall project would cost about ₹250 crore. Many companies have also come forward to provide funds under the CSR activities," Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre told presspersons after the Cabinet approved the project.

While the first botanical garden Lalbagh was laid in 1760 on an area of 240 acres, the work on Cubbon Park, another big lung space, on an area of 194 acres started in 1870.

Suburban rail

Meanwhile, the Cabinet also approved the revised estimates of ₹16,876 crore for Corridor 2 and 4 in the Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project.

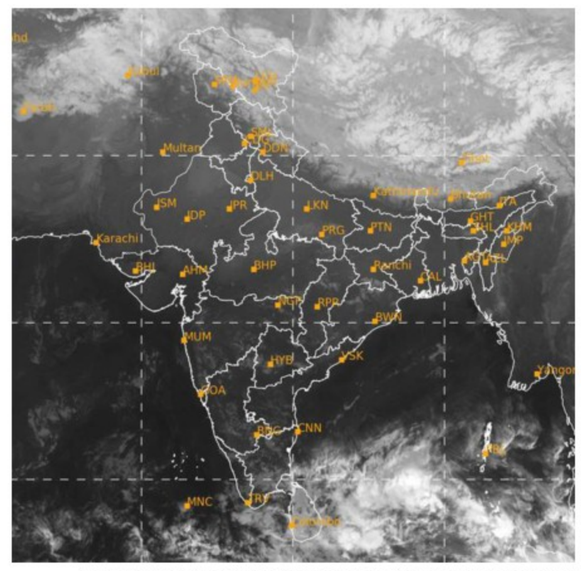
According to Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil, the revised estimates would include ₹357 crore from the Centre for land acquisition and ₹3,066 crore by the State for land acquisition, and ₹2,135 crore for the rolling stock.

Other decisions

Among others, the Cabinet approved setting up of Karnataka GST Analytics Portal at a cost of ₹19 crore and The Karnataka Jnana Bhandar Manuscripts and Digitisation Bill.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Cold wave conditions likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Delhi. Dense/ very dense fog likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Chandigarh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, Nagaland, Tripura, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	17.2	12.5	Kozhikode	—	34.2	24.5
Ahmedabad	—	27.5	15.3	Kurnool	—	31.7	20.0
Aizawl	—	22.6	6.5	Lucknow	—	14.6	8.6
Allahabad	—	17.8	9.6	Madurai	—	33.0	23.6
Bengaluru	—	27.5	19.1	Mangaluru	—	31.2	22.1
Bhopal	—	23.8	10.6	Mumbai	—	29.8	19.4
Bhubaneswar	—	28.0	12.5	Mysuru	—	28.0	16.0
Chandigarh	13.7	13.0	9.5	New Delhi	—	17.4	9.1
Chennai	0.2	29.9	24.0	Patna	—	19.6	9.0
Coimbatore	0.2	30.4	21.6	Port Blair	—	29.2	22.7
Dehradun	—	21.3	7.7	Puducherry	—	30.2	23.8
Gangtok	—	16.1	6.7	Pune	—	30.8	16.9
Goa	—	30.6	20.4	Raipur	—	28.7	14.3
Guwahati	—	22.6	13.0	Ranchi	—	22.8	9.0
Hubballi	—	31.0	18.0	Shillong	—	16.0	5.0
Hyderabad	—	28.6	18.3	Shimla	—	19.0	6.0
Imphal	—	22.5	5.5	Srinagar	—	11.8	0.1
Jaipur	—	21.0	11.8	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.0	23.8
Kochi	—	31.2	25.6	Tiruchi	—	30.7	22.6
Kohima	—	13.0	5.0	Vijayawada	—	29.4	21.0
Kolkata	—	24.2	12.0	Visakhapatnam	—	27.8	20.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.55	..62	75	 65	...117	
Bengaluru	...5	..14	25	... 175	...152	
Chennai	...5	5	46	... 113	92	
Delhi	.19	..61	64	... 289	...367	
Hyderabad	...9	..17	82	... 117	...131	
Kolkata	.12	..78	14	... 273	...206	
Lucknow	...7	..39	58	... 307	...238	
Mumbai	...7	..87	58	... 107	...115	
Pune	..—	..33	67	... 191	...136	
Visakhapatnam	.13	..35	50	... 285	...169	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Talcher, Odisha recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 380 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 23

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Government of Karnataka
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
CHAMARAJANAGARA DIVISION, CHAMARAJANAGARA
Phone/Fax : 08226-222027 e-mail : eecnr@kpwd.gov.in / pwdeechngr@gmail.com

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal only)
(Two Cover System : Section-1-Technical Bid and Section-2-Financial Bid)
Short Term Tender Notification No 26/2025-26 Dated : 01-01-2026

Item rate tenders are invited through Kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal only on behalf of Governer of Karnataka from Eligible registered civil Contractor in KPWD in Standard Bid document **KW-4** form The Total no of works is 8, **H/A : 4059-80-051-0-60-132 CM Infrastructure Development Projects - Capital Expenditures Works** minimum estimated cost is Rs. 250.00 lakhs, Maximum estimated cost is Rs. 500.00 lakhs, Further changes in this Notification will be published in https://Kppp.karnataka.gov.in Only.

Date of events as follows:

1	Date and Time for downloading the tender document from the Kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal	From 08-01-2026 to 22-01-2026 upto 16.00 Hrs.
2	Pre-Bid Meeting Date	12-01-2026 in Division Office Meeting Hall at 11.00 AM
3	Downloading the tender document from the Last Date and Time	22-01-2026 upto 16.00 Hrs.
4	Date & Time for opening of Technical bid	23-01-2026 after 16.30 Hrs.
5	Date & Time for opening of Financial bid	27-01-2026 Morning 11.00 AM

More information can be had from the web site : **https ://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** & Any other details required can be obtained from office of the under signed during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Chamarajanagar.
No. : DIPR : CHANAGAR:609:2025-26

BANGALORE CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Chickpet Division
No.194, T Mariyappa road, Opp to lalbagh south Gate, Siddapura Circle, Bangalore-560011

No.EE/CKP/MDP/E-PROC/08/2025-26 **Date: 01.01.2026**

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Only through E-Procurement)

1. The Executive Engineer (Chickpete Division), BCCC, Bangalore invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD / Railways / MES/ National Highway or any State Government Organisations for the construction of work detailed in the table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for the work given in the table through e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in). The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Instructions to Tenderer's to qualify for award of the contract (Standard Tender Document KW2). **2.** The Tender Document can be downloaded from the GOK e-Procurement Website **(http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in). 3.** Other details can be seen in the tender document.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work/Est Cost (Rs in Lakhs)/EMD amount in Rs.
1	Improvement and developments of roads, drains and footpath at SJP Road, Vegitable Market road, Venkatappa Park, Usmankhan road, Vinobhanagara and Surrounding area in ward no. 161 Silver jubilee Park. Estimate Cost **Rs. 50.00 Lakhs,** EMD **: Rs.1,00,000/-**

Calender of events :
1) Last Date for uploading the Filled Tender Document is **19-01-2026 upto 16.00.**
2) Date of Technical bid opening of Tenders is on **20-01-2026 by 16.30**
3) Date of Financial bid Opening of Tenders is on after Technical bid approved

Sd/- Executive Engineer Chickpete Division, BCCC.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಾಪಾಅ/ಪಂರಾಇಂ/ವಿಯಾ/5054–ಪ.ಜಾ–ಪ.ಪಂ.ಯೋ/ಟೆ.ಪ್ರ/ತಾಸ/2025–26/ ದಿ: 02.01.2026

ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ) (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

1) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ. ಮತ್ತು ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಸುರಪೂರ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ 5 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು **(1)** RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT22271 **(2)**RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_ INDENT21785 **(3)** RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT21107 **(4)**RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT22276 **(5)** RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT22269 2) ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ: 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ 5054 ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡದ ಯೋಜನೆ 3) ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ: ಕನಿಷ್ಠ 25.00 ಮತ್ತು ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ರೂ. 50.00 ಲಕ್ಷ 4) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ : 4ನೇ ಹಾಗೂ 3ನೇ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು ದರ್ಜೆ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು 5) ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.01.2026 ರಿಂದ 14.01.2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ 6) ಟೆಂಡರ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಬೆಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ: ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದಂತೆ (ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಹಿಂದಿರುಗಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲಾ) 7) ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ :14.01.2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ 8) ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ: 17.01.2026 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 11:00 ನಂತರ 9) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ವಿಳಾಸ (ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ):ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ. 10) ಅಂತರಜಾಲ ತಾಣದ ವಿಳಾಸ: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

ಸೂಚನೆ :– ಟೆಂಡರರಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂದಿಸಿದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು (ರಜಾದಿನಗಳು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ).

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ,
ಯಾದಗಿರ.
ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರ/448/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.&ಎ/2025–26

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING WING
Office of the Chief Engineer, Arogya Soudha, 3rd floor, Leprosy Hospital Premises, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560 023, Telephone No.080-29557023, E-mail: cekhsdrp@gmail.com

No:HFWD/EW/CE/TA-1&2/AE-3/PM ABHIM & 15th Finance/Tender/2025-26/3382 Date: 02.01.2026

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Chief Engineer, HFWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible contractors registered in KPWD in Two Tender document system in KPPP for the following works.

Sl. No.	Description of works	Approx. amount put to tender (Rs. In Lakh) (Excluding GST)	EMD (Rs. In Lakh)	Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon)
1	Construction of Ayushman Arogya Mandir at **(1)** Agrahara, **(2)** Akkanahally Cross-B, **(3)** Chowlagala, **(4)** D-Hosalli, **(5)** Didaga-B, **(6)** Halabelagola, Channarayapattana Taluk at Hassan District. **(7)** Guddada Shankarnahalli, Arsikere Taluk at Hassan District. **(8)** Sulagodu, Alur Taluk at Hassan District **(Call-7).**	429.10	6.45	5 Months
2	Construction of Ayushman Arogya Mandir at **(1)** Aggunda, **(2)** Arakera, **(3)** Banduru, **(4)** Byragondanahalli, **(5)** D M Kurke-B, **(6)** Donanakatte, **(7)** Heggatta, **(8)** Javgal-B, **(9)** Kalgundi, **(10)** Kanakatte-B, **(11)** Kellengere, **(12)** Kerekodihalli, **(13)** Mallapura, **(14)** Tholaluru, Arsikere Taluk at Hassan District **(Call-7).**	751.00	11.30	5 Months
3	Construction of Ayushman Arogya Mandir at **(1)** Annigere, **(2)** Manchagondanahalli, **(3)** S Madapura, **(4)** Birur D, **(5)** Birur E Kaduru Taluk at Chikkamagaluru District. **(6)** Belluru, **(7)** K Kanaburu, N R Pura Taluk at Chikkamagaluru District. **(8)** Balagadi, Koppa Taluk at Chikkamagaluru District. **(9)** Banakal B, Mudigere Taluk Chikkamagaluru district **(Call-5).**	489.00	7.34	5 Months

Calendar of Events: (1) Last date for receipt of tenders: **12.01.2026 up to 16.00 hrs. (2)** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **13.01.2026 at 16.30 hrs.**

The tender details can be downloaded from the KPP Portal Platform. Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the KPP Portal Platform to participate in this tender.

NOTE: (1) All the rights are reserved by the undersigned for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids / individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. **(2)** Henceforth, any changes in the schedule / contents will not be published through newspapers and further changes will be updated only on KPP Portal.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru.

DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
9th Floor, Vishveshwaraiah Mini Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru - 560 001. Ph: 080-22868870, 22867097, 22865192
Fax : 080-22860396, e-mail : mdadcl2011@gmail.com

No:ADCL/FOODCART/TENDER/2025-26/6541 **Date:02.01.2026**

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP portal only)

The Managing Director, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Development Corporation Limited, Bengaluru invites tender from interested Manufactures (OEMs) for Supply of **EV Food Carts (Electrical Fast Food Truck Trailers / Mobile Kitchen, Food Kiosk)** for the Beneficiaries under Self-employment -Entrepreneurship Scheme across Major Cities of Karnataka State for the year 2025-26 through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** Prospective bidders willing to participate in this tender shall necessarily register themselves with above mentioned e procurement portal.
Amount put to tender is **Rs. 63.05 Crores.** EMD Amount: **Rs.63.00 Lakhs.** Last date and time for submission of pre-bid queries: **13/01/2026 at 05.00 PM.** Pre Bid Meeting Date and Time: **12/01/2026 at 11.30 AM.** Last date & Time for submission of Tender: **03/02/2026 at 05.00 PM.** Date & Time of opening of Technical bid: **06/02/2026 at 11.00 AM.** Demonstration of offered Vehicles by Bidders and evaluation by the Technical Committee: **04/02/2026 at 11.30 AM.** (Tentative). Tentative Date & Time of opening of Commercial bid: **10/02/2026 at 11.00 AM.** Venue of pre-bid meeting, opening of tenders & address for communication: **Above Office Address.**
Prospective bidders willing to participate in this tender can download the bid documents after visiting the website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Managing Director
DIPR/CP/JA/4806/2025-26

BEFORE THE HON'BLE KARNATAKA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION,
#16C-1, MILLER TANK BED AREA, VASANTHANAGAR, BENGALURU - 560 052.

IN THE MATTER OF:
Application under Section 62 and 64 of The Electricity Act, 2003 read with KERC (Multi Year Transmission, Distribution and Retail Supply Tariff) Regulations, 2024 for approval of Annual Performance Review (APR) for FY 2024-25.

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd (KPTCL)
Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru-560 009 **..... Applicant**

NOTIFICATION of APR FOR FY-25

1.0 In accordance with KERC (Multi Year Transmission, Distribution and Retail Supply Tariff) Regulations, 2024, the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) has filed its Annual Performance Review (APR) for FY 2024-25, before KERC for approval. The application of KPTCL is under consideration of KERC.

2.0 In the APR application for FY 2024-25, KPTCL has sought revised Annual Revenue Requirement (ARR) of Rs.6504.08 Crore with a revenue surplus of Rs. 71.78 Crore, Approval is hereby sought for the adjustment of excess/surplus income during the financial year 2026–27.

3.0 In accordance with the provisions of Electricity Act 2003, KERC (Multi Year Transmission, Distribution and Retail Supply Tariff) Regulations, 2024, it is hereby notified that persons who are interested in filing their objections to the above applications may file the same with the **Receiving Officer, KERC, #16 C-1, MILLER TANK BED AREA, VASANTHANAGAR, Bengaluru-560 052** along with the documents which they want to rely upon, in six sets duly supported by an affidavit within **30 days** from the date of the first publication of this Notification.

4.0 For reference for those who are interested, copies of KPTCL's Annual Performance Review (APR) applications are available for inspection and for purchase at the following offices:
(1) Office of the Chief Engineers (Electy), Transmission Zones, KPTCL, Bengaluru, Tumakuru, Hassan, Mysuru, Bagalkote and Kalaburagi.
(2) The Accounts Officer (Public Relations), Corporate Office, KPTCL, Ground Floor, Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru.
(3) Corporate Offices of Electricity Supply Companies (ESCOMs) situated at Bengaluru, Mysuru, Mangaluru, Hubballi and Kalaburagi.

5.0 A full set of applications is made available to the interested people at the above offices on payment of Rs.111/- in Kannada version and Rs.108/- in English version for each set of APR application by cash or DD or they may also obtain required portion of the application, by paying photocopying charges @ Rs.1/- per page, **within 10 working days** from the date of first publication of the notification. These documents are also available on the website of **KPTCL https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in**

6.0 The objections have to be **filed with KERC only.** But as directed by KERC, in order to expedite the process of objection filing and replies thereon, the objectors are also requested to simultaneously send a copy of their objection directly to the **Managing Director, KPTCL, Corporate Office, Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru-560 009**. The last date for receipt of public objections is **30 days** from the date of first publication.

For Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited
(Sd/-)
Managing Director,
KPTCL, Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru-560 009

Unenviable choice

Growth-generating capital expenditure can affect fiscal targets

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue of ₹1.74 lakh crore in December 2025 confirms just how narrow the government's fiscal policy space is. The December data reflect the economic activity in November, the second month under the new, reduced GST rates. December's revenues were marginally higher than the ₹1.7 lakh crore collected in November. This was expected. Any belief that the rate reductions would lead to an immediate and sustained increase in demand, and hence GST collections, was pure optimism. In reality, people are more likely to use that extra money to pad up savings or pare down debt, with increased consumption a more medium-term outcome. This happened following the income-tax rejig in Budget 2025 too, when the government effectively exempted people earning up to ₹12 lakh a year from income-tax. The GST and income-tax decisions were both welcome relaxations. However, at least for this year, they are going to cause the government more pain than gain. The most recent data on the government's accounts reflect this. Total tax revenue stood at ₹13.9 lakh crore at the end of November 2025, 3.4% lower than in the same period of 2024-25. On the other hand, the Centre's capital expenditure stood at ₹6.58 lakh crore in the April-November 2025 period, 28% higher than in the same period of the previous year. This jump in capital expenditure was balanced out by a much slower growth in revenue expenditure of 2.1%. However, of the two types of spending, the government has much less discretion over revenue expenditure, which comprises expenses such as salaries, pensions and interest on loans. These cannot be kept subdued for long.

The government has valiantly tried to bolster its earnings through the new excise and GST rates on tobacco products, not to mention the health and security cess on the manufacture of pan masala. However, since all these new rates and cesses will come into effect only on February 1, their full benefit will be felt only in the next financial year. Yet, the troubles for the government's finances do not end there. The remarkably low levels of wholesale inflation this year – averaging -0.08% so far – have also meant that the size of the nominal GDP would likely be smaller than initially budgeted. This means that several ratios pegged to it, most pertinently the fiscal deficit and debt-GDP, would automatically come in larger than earlier estimated. The Centre has displayed commendable fiscal discipline over the last few years. However, this year, it has placed before itself the unenviable choice of either pulling back on growth-generating capital expenditure, or risking missing its fiscal targets.

Dangerous turn

Moscow and Kyiv must step back from escalation and push for peace

Russia's allegation that Ukraine launched a massive drone attack on President Vladimir Putin's country residence in the Novgorod region marks a deeply concerning moment in the nearly four-year-long war. Moscow claims that 91 long-range drones targeted the heavily fortified protected residence in northwestern Russia, a site previously used by Soviet leaders Joseph Stalin and Nikita Khrushchev. Russia has released a video of what it says is a downed drone and handed drone data to the U.S. claiming that it "proves" that Ukraine targeted Mr. Putin's home. Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has dismissed the allegation as fabricated. American media have reported, citing CIA officials, that Ukraine did not target the residence. But the CIA is an ally of Ukraine in the war and its assessment may not be viewed as entirely impartial. Ukraine has previously carried out sabotage operations within and outside Russia. Take, for example, the bombing of the Nord Stream pipelines in September 2022. It was initially blamed on Russia but led to the arrest of Ukrainian nationals in Poland and Italy last year. At the same time, it is Russia's responsibility to present credible evidence that Ukraine targeted the residence. But regardless of where the truth lies, the damage is already done. The fact that such accusations are being made – and believed by some world leaders – signals that the war has entered an alarmingly volatile phase.

The timing of these allegations is also significant. Russia's claim came close on the heels of Mr. Zelenskyy's meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump in Florida during which Washington reportedly offered security guarantees to Ukraine as part of a peace agreement. Mr. Trump had initially proposed a 28-point plan to which Ukraine responded with a 20-point plan. There were marathon talks involving U.S., Russian, European and Ukrainian officials. The alleged Ukrainian attack in Novgorod has dealt a blow to the fragile peace effort. Moscow has already said it will harden its negotiating position. Meanwhile, on New Year's eve, three Ukrainian drones struck a cafe and a hotel in Khorly in the Russian-held Kherson region, killing at least 27 people, including a child, and injuring over 50 others. Russia has intensified its strikes on Ukraine in recent months, leaving the country facing severe power shortages at the peak of winter. Taken together, the escalating attacks and the controversy surrounding Mr. Putin's residence should serve as urgent reminders to all parties that de-escalation cannot be delayed. If the war spirals, it poses grave risks to Europe and the world given the involvement of nuclear powers on both sides. The U.S., which is driving the peace talks, must redouble diplomatic efforts while maintaining pressure on Moscow and Kyiv to step back.

Transforming a waste-ridden urban India

Akshay Rout

is former Director General, Swachh Bharat Mission

At the 30th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP30), at Belem, in November 2025, host Brazil quite fittingly placed waste at the heart of the climate agenda. Sizeable funds were committed to a new global initiative, No Organic Waste, NOW, to cut methane emissions. The Conference noted Circularity as the way to inclusive growth, cleaner air, and healthier populations. COP30 called upon cities to accelerate circularity initiatives where waste is recognised as a resource. Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), espoused by India at COP26, in Glasgow in 2021, calling for "deliberate utilisation, instead of mindless and destructive consumption" was strongly premised on the idea of circularity as well.

Urban India, its growing problem of waste

Expanding cities and towns are an irreversible reality in growing India. The choice is between good and bad cities. Often, this choice gets translated into clean and pollution-free cities or waste-ridden, ugly urban areas. A number of studies suggest that Indian cities do not match up to global standards in providing a clean and healthy environment. Pollution is the talk of the town, posing questions to an aspirational India.

The National Capital Region (NCR) as well as many other cities in the country are also among the world's most polluted. Governments and regulators are at work, with courts also stepping in, but with limited effect. Citizen grievance is at its peak. The Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), that ended open defecation in India within a specific timeframe, has the active goal of making the cities clean and garbage free.

It is estimated that cities in India will generate 165 million tonnes of waste annually by 2030, and emit over 41 million tonnes of greenhouse gases. By 2050, as the urban population grows to about 814 million, the waste burden could rise to 436 million tonnes. Without early solutions, these will result in grave levels of emissions, and creating havoc with peoples' health, the economy and the overall climate. The goal of Garbage Free Cities (GFC) by 2026 is an existential necessity, not a matter of aesthetics.

Under SBM Urban 2.0, about 1,100 cities and towns have been rated free of dumpsites, if not exactly free of garbage. Complete freedom from garbage, fortified by sustainable waste management and resource optimisation, is possible when all 5,000 cities and towns adopt the circular economy model, which underlines waste as a resource. India needs to move away from a linear to circular mode of waste management, with the twin objectives of minimising waste and recovering energy and other resources.

> India needs to move away from a linear to a circular mode of waste management, minimising waste and also recovering energy and other resources

Plastic, construction and demolition waste

The good thing is that more than half of municipal waste is organic that can be managed through composting from a house to large bio-methanation plants. Compressed Biogas Plants (CBG) have created possibilities of generating green fuel from municipal wet waste, whereas complete combustion of this also yields power. More than a third of the waste piled in cities is dry, all of which is not recyclable. The demon in this category is plastic, posing a threat to the ecosystem and human health.

Plastic waste also poses the toughest challenge to waste management. Dry waste is dependent on the critical habit of efficient segregation at households before recycling is done through material recovery facilities, which need to be constantly augmented with the rise in the waste burden. Refuse derived fuel from dry waste, as a source of energy for cement and other industries, is still under consolidation. But there is much distance to cover for entrepreneurship and market linkages in these modes of circularity.

Construction and demolition waste – about 12 million tonnes is generated in a year – is a major city spoiler, as it causes pollution in urban centres. It is collateral damage from relentless construction, at times unplanned, in India's fast-growing economy. Unauthorised dumping of construction discards wherever there is space, by the roadside, or even city lanes, is a common sight in India.

Much of this waste can be reused or recycled as cost-efficient raw materials of substantial value. This will also cause less damage to the environment. Minor construction and demolition waste mixed up with other unsegregated household waste and dumped in waste bins do not help processing. The recycling capacity in India is rising but is not sufficient to match the rate of construction and demolition waste being generated.

What could help is ensuring more serious compliance with the Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016, which seek to levy a charge on generators of high volumes of construction and demolition waste, besides setting out other parameters. The Environment (Construction and Demolition) Waste Management Rules, 2025 are to come into effect from April 1, 2026.

Wastewater is the other thread in waste management and circularity. Water and sanitation are state subjects and States need to take proactive steps to recycle wastewater and reuse it in agriculture, horticulture, and for industrial purposes. Water security in cities has a causal link with complete used water and faecal sludge management, as outlined under urban missions such as Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and SBM. With India's water stock inadequate to meet the needs of its population, recycling and reuse are the only ways out to meet increasing water demand.

Hurdles before circularity

The path to achieving circularity is not an easy one, considering the multiplicity of actors. The smooth functioning of segregation of waste at source, collection logistics and processing, and aggregation and distribution are far from ideal. Recycled products face quality issues, marketing challenges and consequential financial feasibility.

Besides infrastructure, there are shortfalls in testing and monitoring. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) has yet to extend to all categories of dry waste. Construction and demolition waste has issues of identification, tracing and tracking of its origin. This is an issue that has not been integrated in an ideal way with construction and building laws to ensure proper accountability. Inter-departmental coordination, stakeholder awareness, and incentive and penalty systems must vastly improve, with sharper focus to make meaningful circularity possible in city societies.

Resource shortfalls with municipalities for taking up circularity projects require early resolution. It is heartening that policymakers, experts and industrial houses deliberated on these issues at a national urban conclave in New Delhi recently while working out an agenda for urban rejuvenation. Last year, Asia-Pacific nations, at their meeting in Jaipur endorsed an Indian initiative of 'Cities Coalition for Circularity (C-3)' for efficient knowledge and expertise sharing among cities and institutions of the region.

Citizens need to get a clear sense of profit and a true cause in order to be partners in the circularity movement. In a society that is becoming increasingly consumerist, the first R of the three Rs – 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' – looks a difficult proposition to achieve. With products and consumable items arriving in new incarnations each day, 'reuse' may become a tall order too. 'Recycling', aided by technology and private enterprise and with sound policy backup, could emerge as a pillar of circularity. It could also be an assured way of helping India's cities and towns move away from swamps of waste while adding to national resources.

The views expressed are personal

Recasting sanitation with urban-rural partnerships

When the Swachh Bharat Mission ('Clean India Mission') was launched in 2014, its vision was both simple and transformative; to ensure that every household in India had access to a toilet. In just a decade, this vision has become reality. More than 12 crore household toilets have been built in rural India, and every village has declared itself Open Defecation Free (ODF). This achievement has improved public health, reduced indignities faced by women and vulnerable groups, and marked a turning point in India's development journey.

Focus on waste management

Yet, the success of the sanitation mission has also revealed the next frontier. Toilets are only the starting point. The real challenge lies in managing the resultant faecal waste. In most rural households, septic tanks and pits serve as the primary form of containment. Over time, these fill up and must be desludged at regular intervals. Without safe systems for collection, transport, and treatment, the gains of the ODF movement risk being undermined. It is this challenge that defines the transition to Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), or SBM-G, Phase II, with its focus on ODF Plus.

ODF Plus goes beyond toilet construction to ensure the sustainability of outcomes through solid and liquid waste management, behavioural change, and safe sanitation service chains. The progress has been encouraging. As of October 2025, more than 5.68 lakh villages, nearly 97% of India's total, have been declared ODF Plus. But faecal sludge management remains one of the most critical gaps in the sanitation chain, especially in peri-urban and rural areas.

Maharashtra has been at the forefront of experimenting with innovative approaches to address this gap. The State has invested in more than 200 faecal sludge treatment plants in urban areas and encouraged co-treatment in 41 sewage treatment plants. These facilities are a backbone of treatment infrastructure to cities, but the challenge lies in extending their benefits to the villages that surround them. It is here that urban-rural partnerships show great promise.

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> The model in Satara district in Maharashtra is an innovative experiment

At the gram panchayat level

In Satara district, Maharashtra, such a partnership was put into practice. Satara city's faecal sludge treatment plant, with a capacity of 65 kilo litres a day (KLD), was operating below full capacity. Recognising this, four villages, Jakatwadi, Songaon, Kodoli, and Degaon, have been brought under an arrangement that will allow them to access the city's treatment plant.

Their septic tanks, often never desludged or emptied only at exorbitant rates by informal operators, will be serviced at regular intervals and in a safe way. A private service provider is to be engaged by the gram panchayats, under a contract, to provide scheduled desludging services every five years.

The costs will be recovered through a modest sanitation tax levied by the gram panchayats, ensuring affordability and accountability. A formal agreement between the Satara Panchayat Samiti and the Satara Municipal Council will allow authorised desludging vehicles from the gram panchayats to access the faecal sludge treatment plant and treat the sludge at no cost , making the arrangement sustainable and mutually beneficial.

But not every village can be linked to a treatment system of a city. Some will have to treat their waste independently. An example is Mayani, a large village in Khatav taluka. With the high demand for desludging services, the gram panchayat has agreed to introduce scheduled desludging every five to seven years, managed by either a private operator or local self-help groups.

In addition, Mayani has been selected for the development of a cluster-level faecal sludge treatment plant under the SBM-G, designed to serve around 80 surrounding villages. This approach shows that rural clusters can pool resources to develop standalone treatment infrastructure that meets their needs, while remaining financially and technically viable.

The demonstration of urban-rural linkages and the standalone faecal sludge management business model in Satara district will promote the adoption and the institutionalisation of safe, sustainable sanitation services across rural Maharashtra. It also aims to show that sustaining the gains of ODF and effectively integrating faecal sludge management into rural sanitation require strong collaboration between urban and rural governments, private and public actors, and citizens and institutions.

A model that can be scaled up

If scaled up, such models have the potential to transform not only villages in Maharashtra but also rural communities across the country. By doing so, India can ensure that its sanitation gains are not only celebrated today but can be sustained for generations to come. The true measure of Swachh Bharat will not only be the toilets built but also the systems created to manage them – systems that protect peoples' health, preserve the environment, and uphold the dignity that this mission set out to achieve.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Learning and attendance

I am a professor and found the article, "Mandating student presence, erasing learning" (Editorial page, January 2), thought-provoking. The refusal of stasis is the moot point to judge whether we are facilitating discovery or merely disseminating information. The question of curiosity versus compliance, quality of teaching and surveillance, coercion and dialogic encounters are bound to stir the mind. Ensure engagement of the mind.

Udai Bhan Singh,
Rae Bareli, Uttar Pradesh

As a college student, I found the reflections on transforming student attendance rules to be accurate and a refreshing take. I would not miss a day if classes were engaging and worth the time they take. The experience of my friends in other institutes echoes how physical presence seems to be the priority for the administration in colleges while learning takes a back seat and critical thinking is forgotten. My peers and I often spend lecture time studying from YouTube or finishing pending assignments. It would be transformative if more time was spent teaching students how to think, and not what to.

Avvishi Saxena,
Agra, Uttar Pradesh

Contamination, right to life

A state that fails to protect its water sources from contamination cannot credibly claim to uphold the right to life under Article 21. The Supreme Court of India has repeatedly held that this right includes access to clean water and a healthy environment. When these are compromised, the constitutional guarantee becomes illusory. The incident in Indore exposes the fragility of our executive machinery and the persistent disconnect between policy announcements and ground-level implementation. Flagship programmes such as the Jal Shakti Abhiyan, Swachh Bharat Mission and the National Water Mission risk being reduced to slogans in the absence of monitoring and accountability.

Suchhanda Banerjee,
Chandannagar, West Bengal

Women's emancipation

The judgment of the Supreme Court, in *Belide Swagath Kumar vs. State of Telangana & Another*, stating that financial dominance of a husband over his wife will not amount to cruelty and certain other findings will leave women in despair. Describing the situation of the wife, an engineer who was asked to resign and remain a housewife, and who had to plead with her husband to meet her daily needs, as a reflection of the "daily wear and tear of marriage", fails to recognise women's rights and constitutional guarantees. Further, to describe a man's total financial control of the wife as a mirror reflection of Indian society is refusing to see ground realities. The Court seems to be oblivious to the plight of the women and its refusal to come out of the past reinforces male chauvinism. To describe the actions of the wife seeking action against the husband as "a gateway or a tool to settle scores" is refusing to see the helpless nature of women whose emancipation the Constitution seeks.

N.G.R. Prasad,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Villagers stage a protest demanding that the Aravallis be saved, at Kotputli in Rajasthan. R.V. MOORTHY

The hills are shaken with the sound of machinery

A 2-billion-year-old range has been battered and bruised by mining, waste dumping, and encroachment, say environmentalists and those who live in its shadow. The Supreme Court order accepting the changed definition of the Aravalli hills caused further worry, though it has since been stayed. **Ishita Mishra** reports on the people living in the foothills, who believe that decisions about the Aravallis should involve and benefit communities

In December 2025, to cope with the bitter cold in Haryana's Nuh disrict, a group of young men tried to light a bonfire outside an Aadhar service centre in Jimrawat village. Nuh is part of the Mewat region, which is characterised by the rugged Aravalli hills, agrarian plains, and rural landscapes.

It was a windy day. Trucks carrying stones hurtled by every five minutes, kicking up clouds of dust. The men were unable to light the fire. One of them yelled at a driver to slow down; another immediately shushed him.

"They belong to the mining mafia who are busy cutting the Aravallis day and night," said Kasim Khan, a septuagenarian.

The Aravallis stretch about 650 kilometres across Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Gujarat. In 2009, the Supreme Court had ordered a blanket ban on mining and quarrying in the Aravalli hills of Haryana's Faridabad, Gurugram, and Nuh (Mewat) districts. "Despite the ban, these trucks fearlessly make the rounds here," Khan said.

Khan remembered the time when the Aravallis were surrounded by green forests, housing diverse fauna. He said he has witnessed how human greed has exploited the hills.

This 2-billion-year-old geological formation is endowed with sandstone, limestone, marble, granite, and minerals such as lead, zinc, copper, gold, and tungsten. Mining and quarrying in these hills is not new. Since the 1990s, the Union government has laid down restrictions on these practices on several occasions.

The same issue made it to the headlines once again after the Supreme Court of India, on November 20, 2025, upheld a definition of an expert panel constituted by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change. The panel said that an Aravalli hill had to rise at least 100 metres above local relief, while a range comprised hills, slopes, and hillocks that are within 500 metres of each other.

Environmentalists criticised the order and expressed worry. They alleged that the lower ranges would no longer have the environmental protection they currently enjoy. They said that the new rule would leave the doors open for reckless exploitation of the hills, which regulate the climate of the region; support the recharging of groundwater; and serve as the "lungs" for the Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) by preventing sand and hot winds from the Thar Desert from spreading eastward. After widespread protests, the Supreme Court stayed its November order on December 29.

Life and livelihood in the foothills

Mohd. Habib, 63, from Ghaghas village in Nuh, is passionate about writing. "*It* Dilli *ut* Agra…Nuh, Jaipur *aur* Bairat…*kalo pahad suhavano jaa ke saath base* Mewat (It's Delhi, then Agra…Nuh, Jaipur, and Bairat…Mewat lies along the foothills of the dark mountains)," he said, reciting the first poem he had penned about the Aravallis, his home and his source of living.

Rajuddin Meo, chairperson of the Mewat Right to Information (RTI) Manch, a citizen group that uses the RTI Act, 2005, to promote transparency in governance, said that most people in Nuh are either employed in agriculture or cattle farming. Niti Aayog has classified Nuh as one of the most backward districts of India.

> Mining has lowered the water level in the area and climate change has adversely impacted rains. Due to this, agricultural produce has reduced.
>
> **RAJUDDIN MEO**
> Chairperson, Mewat Right to Information Manch

"Mining has lowered the water level in the area and climate change has adversely impacted rains. Due to this, agricultural produce has reduced considerably in the region," he said.

Meo, who is part of one of the most marginalised groups in the area, added that rampant quarrying has left the hills deserted. He said no plant grows on it. This deprives animals of their grazing space and burdens the pockets of their masters. "If the Aravallis are not saved, over 100 villages in Mewat will have nothing to do for their survival," said Meo, who has written a letter to the Prime Minister, the President, and the Home Minister, to put a blanket ban on mining in the Aravallis.

Following the Supreme Court order of 2009, Mufisa, a resident of Nuh who is a mother of five, said her husband began working at an illegal mining unit, a practice that continues due to strong local lobbies and administrative apathy. He died during the COVID-19 pandemic.

With no farming land, Mufisa has revamped the backyard of her house, to make coal out of wood. She places wood inside 10-12 feet tall, round structures covered with mud. The wood is burnt under controlled temperatures until it turns into coal which is sold at ₹25-20 to hotels on the Haryana-Rajasthan highway. In December, the Delhi government banned the use of coal and wood in tandoors, to curb pollution.

"We are uneducated people," Mufisa said. "If there are no animals and no farming, what can we do to survive?"

Nuh, a region dominated by Meo Muslims, has seen communal clashes recently. The people of this area are afraid of sending their men to work in neighbouring NCR and Western Uttar Pradesh or even Rajasthan.

"No one can ensure the security of our children in the current environment. We have to keep them with us," said Shamima. Her son works as a daily wager and another takes animals to graze in the hills.

Arshad, from Baniyabaas Chaupra, is upset with the recent hue and cry over mining in the Aravallis. For years, he has been employed in a job that requires him to cut through the hills. Now, the forest department administration and the police remain on strict vigil after the matter became sub judice in the Supreme Court.

"I feel that the government should not give big tenders for mining in the Aravallis," Arshad said. "However, poor people like me should be allowed to cut stone. I sell one tractor of stones a day and earn merely ₹400-500. This is after the tractor rent, diesel charge, and labour charge are deducted. Most of my stone is either used by my own villagers or goes to the neighbourhood. It is our hill, why can't we use it."

Arshad added, "If we are not be allowed to cut the hills, our children will either become thieves or commit petty crime to earn their living."

Rajiv Saini, from Sammanwala in Naugaon, a cluster of nine villages which is emerging as a farmhouse hub due to its proximity to Delhi and Gurugram, disagreed. "The men of my village always did just one job and that was to break the Aravalli hills and sell stone. That risky job has left many dead, while several others have suffered permanent disabilities. All this was for a daily income of just ₹400-500. When we created awareness to stop mining in the hill, young men started studying. Many of them have recently got government jobs," he said.

Covered in dust

The residents of Ajitpura Kalan and Kujota village in Kotputli district of Rajasthan had been sitting on an indefinite strike to save the Aravallis. Their protest had lasted 145 days.

Ajitpura Kalan is home to one of the biggest cement manufacturing companies in Rajasthan. Though spread over several acres, the factory appears dwarfed by the deep pits carved into hills.

"In some places, they have dug so deep that the pits are now filled with groundwater. They use heavy motors to empty the pits and let out the water in our fields, flooding them and rendering them useless. Most pits are of the height of 4-5 storey buildings. People are afraid to even go near these pits," said Netram Takhar, head of Ajitpura Kalan village.

Takhar alleged that the company blasts the hills, which leaves the entire area, with over 500 homes, shaken. At many places, he said the company asks people to vacate their homes before the blasting, which mostly occurs at night. "The houses which are close to the mining area have developed cracks. But if we complain to the company officials or administrative officials, they slap cases on us for 'disturbing law and order'," he said.

Anushka Kumari, a student of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya in Pawana Ahir village of Kotputli, said students remain awake through the night fearing that the school might collapse due to the continuous blasts. Her school was part of the government's initiative to provide free residential education, boarding, and lodging for adolescent girls from disadvantaged communities in rural and educationally backward areas.

In Alwar's Lalawandi village, the trees, which look snow clad but are actually covered in dust, bear testimony to the ordeal of the people. Tejwan Kumar, whose house is next to the village temple, said half the villagers were either suffering from respiratory diseases or skin allergies.

Rajasthan produces 70% of the country's sandstone. It has a high burden of silicosis cases, particularly in mining areas. In the State, more than 1,000 mining leases have been given in the Aravallis, according to government data. Environmentalists say if the new definition of the hills, as initially approved by the Court, is allowed to stay, only 1,048 Aravalli hills out of a total 12,081 in Rajasthan would meet the 100-metre elevation criteria, leaving the entire range exposed to miners.

"Many people have left their homes as there is no solution to our problems. Those who decided to stay only spend their days at doctors' clinics. No one here dares wear white as clothes turn grey from the dust within minutes," said Panni Lal from Lalawandi. He claimed that his phone sometimes shows an AQI of 800, nearly double that of the AQI in Delhi.

Sandhya, whose porch cracked after a recent blast, said that administrative officials blamed her for it, alleging that her home was made up of poor construction material. "Poor people's houses are built like this. If you destroy that as well, where will we go," she asked.

The villagers also said that mining units never help them in any way. They argued that the units simply exploit natural endowments, which belong to the people living around them.

"They never hire villagers to work in the factories of these mining units. They think locals will form unions and stop them from over-exploiting their resources," said Vineet.

Fighting for rights

On December 29, due to a public outcry, the Court paused its order. It proposed the constitution of a high-powered committee to analyse whether "sustainable mining" or "regulated mining" within the newly demarcated Aravallis, notwithstanding regulatory oversight, would result in any adverse ecological consequences.

After its decision, members of the Aravalli Virasat Jan Abhiyan, a citizen-driven campaign aimed to protect the range, issued a statement. They said that whatever is left of the Aravallis must be declared an ecologically sensitive region and that no destructive activities should be allowed any more.

> India's oldest mountain range does not need 'sustainable mining' plans. It needs to be protected and conserved. No mining is sustainable.
>
> **NEELAM AHLUWALIA**
> Environmentalist

"India's oldest mountain range does not need 'sustainable mining' plans. It needs to be protected and conserved. No mining is sustainable. Plus, all the definitions which seek to limit the Aravallis need to be scrapped," said Neelam Ahluwalia, an environmentalist who is part of the people's movement to save the Aravallis.

The Aravalli Virasat Jan Abhiyan also demanded that the Supreme Court direct an independent, cumulative social and environmental impact study of the entire Aravalli range across four States to ascertain the damage caused by mining, real estate, encroachments, and waste dumping, and to evaluate its role as a critical water recharge zone, climate regulator, pollution sink, and wildlife habitat. They said that the study should also assess the extent of damage inflicted on the people's health and livelihoods across the range.

On December 30, the Aravalli Virasat Jan Abhiyan continued with its protests to save the hills. At Ambedkar ground in Kotputli, women held up placards demanding that the Aravallis be declared as Rashtriya Dharohar (a national asset). Some of them held the death certificates of their loved ones, who had succumbed to silicosis or accidents while mining. The People's Union for Civil Liberties and Rajendra Singh, known as the 'water man of India', also attended the protest.

"You all have seen how the Supreme Court stayed the Delhi High Court order granting bail to Kuldeep Singh Sengar in the Unnao rape case. The woman had protested for her rights. When all of you protest for your rights, the Court will meet our demands to save the hills," said Mahesh Yadav, a retired veterinary doctor, affiliated with the Congress, the Opposition party in Rajasthan.

Preserving resources

Kailash Meena, 60, an environmentalist who led the protest in Kotputli, said India needs to learn how to protect its natural resources. "Only countries that have preserved their natural resources and found alternative construction methods, which are now considered synonymous with development, have truly become developed. In India, we are exploiting all our natural resources just for the pleasure of the 5-7% of rich people, while the rest of the country is struggling to survive," said Meena.

In his three-decades-long fight to save the environment, Meena said he has never felt so restless.

"*Mai chahta hu Dilli ka jitna dum ghute…tabhi Dilli ko samajh aayega humara dard* (I think only if Delhi gasps for breath will they understand our condition)," he said.

A protest at Kotputli in Rajasthan. The poster reads, "The Aravallis are our heritage and our breath." R.V. MOORTHY

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From Page One

U.S. 'locked and loaded', Trump threatens Iran

On Monday, Mossad, the Israeli spy agency, wrote on social media in Farsi encouraging Iranians to protest against the government.

"Go out together into the streets. The time has come," the Mossad wrote. "We are with you. Not only from a distance and verbally. We are with you in the field."

Iran's economy has faced sustained pressure ever since Mr. Trump, during his first term as President, unilaterally pulled the U.S. out of the 2015 nuclear deal and reimposed sanctions on Tehran. In June 2025, Israel bombed Iran's nuclear facilities, triggering a 12-day war between the two countries.

The U.S. had joined Israel in striking the nuclear plants, and Iran retaliated by attacking an American base in Qatar on June 23 before a ceasefire. Since then, Iran's economic situation has become worse.

In October, Iran's food inflation reached 64.2%, the second-highest level in the world after South Sudan, according to the World Bank. The rial has lost 60% of its value since the June war.

Mr. Trump, who claimed in June that he had "obliterated" Iran's nuclear facilities, threatened new attacks against Iran earlier this week after meeting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Florida. If Iran replenished ballistic missiles and rebuilt its nuclear programme, "we are going to have no choice but very quickly to eradicate that build up," Mr. Trump had said on December 29 in a joint press conference with Mr. Netanyahu.

The U.S. President's latest threat of intervention in Iran over protest crackdown has escalated tensions between the two countries.

"The American people should know – Trump started this adventurism. They should be mindful of their soldiers' safety," said Mr. Larijani in his response. Ali Shamkhani, a close aide of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said any interfering hand "will be cut off".

"Iranians know well the U.S. 'rescue' record – from Iraq and Afghanistan to Gaza. Any intervening hand approaching Iran's security under any pretext will be cut off with a response that induces regret. Iran's national security is a red line, not material for adventurist tweets," he said.

Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, Speaker of Parliament, issued a statement saying Tehran would respond militarily to any U.S. attacks.

"The disrespectful President of America should know that with this official admission, all American centers and forces across the entire region will be legitimate targets for us in response to any potential adventurism," he said.

Centre asks X to check misuse of Grok chatbot

The letter said that "compliance with the IT Act and the IT Rules, 2021 is not optional, and that the statutory exemptions under section 79 of the IT Act are conditional upon strict observance of due diligence obligations."

Pointing out that even outside the IT Act, acts of this nature "may independently attract penal action," the Ministry said X would have to "remove or disable access, without delay, to all content already generated or disseminated in violation of applicable laws, in strict compliance with the timelines prescribed under the IT Rules, 2021,without vitiating the evidence in any manner."

'Send report'

By Monday, the firm must send an action-taken report in response to these directions, the letter said. "It is reiterated that non-compliance with the above requirements shall be viewed seriously and may result in strict legal consequences against your platform, its responsible officers and the users on the platform who violate the law, without any further notice, under the IT Act, the IT Rules, the BNSS, the BNS and other applicable laws."

ED arrests IAS officer over money laundering

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

An Indian Administrative Service officer and former Collector of Gujarat's Surendranagar district, Rajendrakumar Patel, was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with a bribery-linked money laundering case, officials said on Friday.

A senior police official said the ED took Mr. Patel into custody as part of its ongoing probe into alleged money laundering arising from bribery.

Mr. Patel, a 2015-batch IAS officer, was serving as the Surendranagar Collector until he was transferred without a new posting last week. The transfer came days after the ED arrested a deputy mamlatdar from Mr. Patel's office in the same case.

The Central agency is probing alleged money laundering involving the deputy mamlatdar, Chandrasingh Mori, and others, following the registration of an Enforcement Case Information Report under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The Gujarat Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has also registered an FIR against Mr. Patel and three others based on a complaint filed by the ED.
(With inputs from PTI)

India has the right to defend itself against terrorism: Jaishankar

India cannot be a good neighbour to a country that supports terrorism; signing of Indus Waters Treaty was a gesture of goodwill, says Minister

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Launching a scathing attack on Pakistan on Friday, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said that India cannot be a good neighbour to a country that supports terrorism.

"You can also have bad neighbours... unfortunately we do. When you have bad neighbours... if you look to the one to the West – if a country decides that they will deliberately, persistently, unrepentantly continue with terrorism, we have a right to defend our people against terrorism," he said, while answering queries from the student fraternity at the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras after launching the IITM Global Research Foundation.

"We will exercise that right. How we exercise that right is up to us. Nobody can tell us what we should do or not," he added.

Mr. Jaishankar also spoke about the Indus Waters Treaty. "Many years ago, we agreed to a water-sharing arrangement. The belief was that it was a gesture of goodwill... but if you have decades of terrorism, there is no good neighbourliness and [in return] you don't get the benefit of good neighbourliness," he said. "You can't say... please share water with me but I will continue terrorism."

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar interacts with students in IIT-Madras on Friday. R. RAGU

He also told the students that India was blessed with a lot of good neighbours. He pointed out that during the pandemic, most neighbours got the first shipment of vaccine from India.

He then highlighted another example pertaining to the Ukraine conflict.

"Because of the Ukraine conflict, there were food shortages, fuel shortages and financial crises – we helped our neighbours with fuel, food and fertilizers. And in a sense, we were sharing what we had," Mr. Jaishankar said.

The Minister also said some neighbours went through exceptional stress, the notable example being Sri Lanka.

"They had an acute financial crisis and we stepped up with a package of $4 billion," he said.

Unplanned SIR led to multiple deaths, says Trinamool leader

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

Trinamool Congress national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Friday said the party will win at least one more seat in the 2026 Assembly election than its tally in 2021 in West Bengal. He also claimed the Bharatiya Janata Party was responsible for the "unplanned" special intensive revision (SIR) exercise that led to many deaths in the State.

"I have promised to increase the vote percentage and seats of Trinamool compared to 2021. In 2021, we won 214 seats. We will have to win at least one more seat this time. You need to promise me that one seat will come from South 24 Parganas," he said while addressing a rally in Baruipur, South 24 Parganas district.

The Lok Sabha MP and second-in-command in the Trinamool also threw a challenge to the Opposition leaders in BJP-ruled States. He said that if anyone can manage to start a scheme like the flagship Lakshmir Bhandar in any other State, he will quit politics. Lakshmir Bhandar is a direct cash transfer scheme under which women from across West Bengal receive ₹1,000 a month from the government. Over 2.21 crore women benefit from this scheme. "CM Mamata Banerjee gives Lakshmir Bhandar without any criteria of eligibility to the women of Bengal," Mr. Banerjee added.

Abhishek Banerjee

"Who will take the responsibility for the deaths due to unplanned SIR?" he asked, raising questions about the "hurried and unplanned" SIR process that, he claimed, led to multiple deaths across the State.

He also said they met Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and asked for the list of alleged "Bangladeshi nationals" who were found in the SIR process. This came after BJP had claimed that there were over one crore illegal immigrants in West Bengal who will be deleted in the SIR process.

On December 16, the Election Commission published the draft voter list, which saw around 58 lakh deletions including deceased, shifted, doubtful, and other voters.

Tribal body opposes bid for ST status by six Assam communities

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Coordination Committee of Tribal Organisations of Assam (CCTOA) has rejected the "illegal and unconstitutional" recommendations of the Group of Ministers to grant Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to six communities – Chutia, Koch-Rajbongshi, Matak, Moran, Tai Ahom, and "Tea Tribes" (Adivasis).

The CCTOA represents 14 tribes of Assam.

In its report submitted to the 126-member Assam Assembly in November 2025, the Group of Ministers suggested dividing the six communities into three categories – ST (Plain), ST (Hill), and ST (Valley).

The Consultative Group of the CCTOA, chaired by New Delhi-based rights activist Suhas Chakma, on Friday said the recommendations, apart from being illegal and unconstitutional, would "affect and destroy the political rights" of the existing tribes at all levels from the panchayats to the Lok Sabha.

The CCTOA pointed out that while the Scheduled Castes are identified based on their status in the Hindu caste system, the STs are identified based on tribal characteristics – indications of primitive traits, distinctive culture, geographical isolation, shyness of contact with the community at large, and backwardness for the community as laid down in the Lokur Committee report of 1965.

"The granting of ST status to these communities will destroy the political reservation of the existing STs in addition to affecting the reservation from the Central government's pool," CCTOA coordinator Tilak Doley said.

Chhattisgarh HC gives bail to Chaitanya Baghel in two cases linked to liquor 'scam'

The Hindu Bureau
RAIPUR

Chaitanya Baghel, son of former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister and senior Congress leader Bhupesh Baghel, was granted bail by the Chhattisgarh High Court on Friday in two cases related to the alleged liquor scam. The liquor scam surfaced during Mr. Bhupesh Baghel's tenure as Chief Minister.

While the State Anti-Corruption Bureau/Economic Offences Wing (ACB/EOW) has been probing the liquor scam, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) is investigating the alleged money laundering linked to the case.

ED counsel Saurabh Kumar Pande said that Mr. Chaitanya was granted bail in both the cases. According to the ED, he was at the helm of the syndicate involved in the alleged liquor scam and personally handled nearly ₹1,000 crore in proceeds of crime generated from it. The ACB/EOW has claimed that, in addition to managing the proceeds of crime, he received around ₹200-250 crore as his share.

Chaitanya Baghel

In the ED case, the court noted that the allegations, as they stand, are premised primarily on broad assertions regarding influence and proximity, rather than concrete acts of commission. As per the order, the prosecution narrative proceeds on the premise that the alleged syndicate was managed operationally by public servants and private intermediaries, with day-to-day execution allegedly handled by certain named officials and associates.

"The applicant is not shown to have held any statutory position in the Excise Department, CSMCL, CSBCL, or any licensing authority. Nor is he alleged to have issued any administrative direction, policy decision, or official order forming part of the scheduled offences," it added. In the EOW bail order, the court mentioned that Mr. Chaitanya was not named in the FIR and that he was never arraigned as an accused in the original or five supplementary chargesheets.

Anantnag's key trekking spots shut for tourists

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Popular trekking spots in Anantnag in Jammu and Kashmir were declared out of bounds for tourists on Friday, following inputs from security agencies.

On the banned list are Margan Top, Chauhar Nag, and Sinthan Top. The areas are at an altitude of around 3,696 metres and have traditionally attracted adventure lovers to the high-altitude meadows and glacier lakes they are known for.

According to an order issued by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Kokernag, inputs from the police and security agencies indicated security vulnerabilities in certain high-altitude and forested areas falling under the sub-division.

"The order will remain valid for two months unless withdrawn or extended," it said.

Assam CPI(M) flags 'verbal' order for voters' survey

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) has flagged a "verbal" order on survey of voters across 115 Muslim-majority polling booths in western Assam's Bajali district.

In a letter on Friday to the State's Chief Electoral Officer, Suprakash Talukdar, Secretary of the party's Assam State Committee, said directing other government servants to carry out voter verification, bypassing the BLOs appointed under the rules of the Election Commission, amounted to the gross violation of special revision procedure.

Ghaziabad police warn officer over intimidation during verification drive

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

In the video, the officer is seen placing a device on the back of a man and questioning him about his nationality

The Ghaziabad police on Friday issued a warning to the officer in charge of the Kaushambi police station after a video circulated on social media showing him allegedly intimidating the residents of a slum cluster while claiming to use a device to determine their nationality.

In the video, the officer is seen placing what appears to be a smartphone on the back of a man and questioning him about his nationality. "Are you a Bangladeshi? Put the machine. The machine shows that you are, doesn't it?" the officer is heard saying. The man responds that he is from Araria in Bihar.

"A viral video has come to light through social media. Upon investigation, it was found that the video is from an area domination operation being conducted by the local police team in the Kaushambi police station area. During the area domination, residents living in temporary settlements and slums were being questioned and verified. The Kaushambi police station in-charge was speaking with the residents. The officer has been issued a strict warning to ensure such behaviour is not repeated. Further action is being taken after investigating all the facts," Abhishek Srivastava, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Indirapuram, said.

The police said the drive was not aimed at verifying nationality but was part of a routine exercise to identify suspected individuals in temporary settlements.

The Opposition Congress demanded judicial intervention in the matter.

SC slams denial of bail to give accused a 'taste of imprisonment as a lesson'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has said the presumption of innocence of an undertrial does not dissolve merely because a law enforcement agency says his alleged offence is "serious" or if he happens to be booked under a stringent law.

A Bench headed by Justice J.K. Maheshwari marked the court's disapproval of agencies resorting to ways to prolong the incarceration of undertrials without bail for the "purpose of giving him a taste of imprisonment as a lesson".

The judicial order reminded enforcement authorities that every accused who applied for bail before the top court was presumed innocent.

'Bail is the rule'

"Pre-trial incarceration cannot be allowed to degenerate into punishment without adjudication, and courts are constitutionally obliged to intervene where long custody becomes disproportionate, arbitrary or excessive," it said.

The court said the norm "bail is the rule and jail is an exception" was etched in the ethos of criminal jurisprudence.

"Generally an undertrial prisoner ought not be placed behind bars indefinitely unless there is clear threat to society, [possibility of] influencing witnesses/inquiry or he is a flight risk etc. This rule also ensures that the process is also not made a punishment by which a person is jailed for very many years pending trial. Bail is a qualified right of an accused before conviction, wherein the accused is not guaranteed bail, rather it puts onus on the prosecution to establish as to why the undertrial prisoner should not be enlarged on bail. Any deviation in the above proposition is constitutionally circumspect," the apex court observed. The order referred to precedents that had laid down that "once it is obvious that a timely trial would not be possible and the accused has suffered incarceration for a significant period of time, the courts would ordinarily be obligated to enlarge them on bail".

The observations were part of a recent order granting bail to Kapil Wadhawan, Managing Director of Dewan Housing Finance Limited (DHFL), and his brother Dheeraj Wadhawan in connection with the ₹34,000-crore bank fraud case registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation on a complaint by the Union Bank of India.

Congress alleges 15 deaths in Indore as official toll stands at 5

Team of senior doctors will analyse media reports of deaths related to drinking water contamination and update official figures, says Collector; two senior municipal corporation officials suspended as Congress seeks accountability and action

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh Congress has alleged that at least 15 people have died so far after drinking contaminated water supplied by the Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC), even as the BJP-led State government maintained the official death toll at five, including a woman who died on Friday.

Late on Friday night, following a State-wide review meeting, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav suspended two senior IMC officials and transferred the IMC Commissioner, as the Congress called for accountability and action to be taken against all those responsible.

"The State government will not tolerate negligence in the incident that occurred in Bhagirathpura due to contaminated drinking water. Strict decisions are being taken in this regard. The corporation's Additional Commissioner Rohit Sisoniya and the in-charge Superintending Engineer of PHE Sanjeev Shrivastava have been suspended. Instructions have also been given to remove Indore Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dilip Kumar Yadav," the Chief Minister said on X.

Citizens' plight: Family members grieve in Bhagirathpura, Indore, on Friday. Nearly 210 people hospitalised so far, says Collector. PTI

In a status report submitted to the M.P. High Court, the district administration and the State Health Department said that four people, all above 60 years of age, have died so far in Bhagirathpura due to water-related problems. Indore District Collector Shivam Verma later updated the death toll to five. "The administration issues the figures on the basis of medical confirmation and so far, five deaths have occurred in the incident," Mr. Verma said.

"We have also constituted a team of senior doctors which will analyse the death figures which were received from other sources such as public representatives or media and then we will update our official death figure report. Till yesterday, 201 people were admitted; today, nine more people have been admitted, and the number has risen to 210."

Delayed response

After a morning review meeting, the Chief Minister had directed Mr. Sisoniya's transfer to the agriculture department, relieved Mr. Shrivastava of the charge of the water distribution department, and issued a show-cause notice against Mr. Yadav.

"Complaints of dirty water had been coming from the area for more than a year now. This is why the project for a new supply line was added in a notesheet in November 2024, and the tender was issued in August 2025. But work remained stalled," an official at the IMC said.

'Mere cover-up'

After the morning transfer order against Mr. Sisoniya, the Madhya Pradesh Mahila Congress's chief Reena Bourasi termed the State's actions "a mere cover-up". "The government is trying to protect the accused responsible for the 15 deaths. This government did not take any action even on the demands of its own departmental Minister and the city's mayor," she said, adding that the transfer of one official is not enough to fix accountability.

Kharge questions Modi's silence, says Centre failed to ensure clean water, clean air

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi kept trumpeting the Jal Jeevan Mission but was silent on deaths caused by contaminated water in Indore, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge alleged on Friday.

In a post on X, the Congress chief claimed that the Modi government and the BJP failed to provide either clean water or clean air to the country.

"Narendra Modi ji, who never gets tired of trumpeting the Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, is maintaining his silence on the deaths caused by drinking contaminated water in Indore," Mr. Kharge said.

"This is the same Indore city that has clinched the 'Cleanest City' title for the eighth consecutive time in the Central government's Swachh Sarvekshan survey. It's a shameful state of affairs that, due to the BJP's incompetence, people here are desperate for clean water," he added.

Mallikarjun Kharge

The Congress chief said for 11 years, "the country was fed nothing but long speeches, lies and deceit, empty promises, and boasts about the double-engine government".

'Arrogance of power'

"When Ministers are questioned, they resort to abuses and intimidation. Drunk on the arrogance of power, they turn the tables on the journalists. The entire machinery swings into action to cover up the misgovernance of BJP governments," he said.

Mr. Kharge alleged that all the government's schemes were mired in corruption, and said that 10% of the Jal Jeevan Mission fund was allocated for purifying contaminated water. "The Modi government and the BJP have failed to provide either clean water or clean air to the country," the Congress chief said.

His party colleague and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi accused the government of providing "poison instead of water".

"Not water, but poison was distributed in Indore, and the administration remained in deep slumber," Mr. Gandhi said in a post on X.

"Every home is filled with mourning, the poor are helpless – and on top of that, BJP leaders are making arrogant statements. Those who lost their lives and livelihoods needed solace; the government offered arrogance," the Opposition leader said.

BJP alleges 'maha jungle raj' in Bengal, says Mamata 'threatened' Amit Shah

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Friday alleged that there was "maha jungle raj" in the Trinamool Congress-ruled West Bengal, and that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had threatened Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Addressing a press conference, BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said: "In West Bengal, we see how jungle raj is flourishing throughout under the patronage of Mamata Banerjee."

Constitutional violation

"A Chief Minister, who takes an oath to uphold the Constitution, threatens the Home Minister of India. She says 'if I do not want it, the Home Minister of India cannot enter West Bengal'," he claimed, adding that it was a "violation" of Article 19 of the Constitution. "And she says 'if I want, he cannot even come out of his hotel room. This means if a citizen, exercising his constitutional rights, wants to go and communicate and interact with people, if the Home Minister of the country wants to go, you are threatening him," he said.

"What is 'jungle raj', 'maha jungle raj', 'goonda raj' like? It is exactly like Mamata Banerjee...where she feels that the Rohingya, who are infiltrators, are her vote bank," alleged Mr. Bhatia.

"And since we are talking about West Bengal, and I mentioned the baseless allegations of vote theft that Rahul Gandhi repeatedly makes after losing elections. Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury is a respected leader of the Congress... He says that in West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee does not steal votes, she commits vote dacoity," he said.

Health scheme for ex-servicemen facing crisis due to govt. apathy, says Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Accusing the Centre of weakening the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) through budget cuts and administrative curbs, the Congress on Friday announced a nationwide "Save ECHS" campaign to highlight pending medical bills of ex-servicemen and disruptions in medical treatment they face.

Colonel Rohit Chaudhry (retd), chairman of the AICC Ex-Servicemen Department, said ex-servicemen would start an agitation in the national capital unless the government released ₹14,000 crore for the ECHS by January 30.

The scheme covers around 72 lakh beneficiaries, but medical bills of more than 20 lakh ex-servicemen were pending, with outstanding dues exceeding ₹9,000 crore, he said.

As part of the month-long campaign, the Congress would reach out to over 400 ECHS polyclinics across the country to gather data on unpaid bills and assess operational challenges, Mr. Chaudhry said at a press conference.

Mounting backlog

He said the scheme needed ₹13,500 crore in 2023-24 but got an allocation of ₹9,831 crore, despite an existing backlog of ₹3,500 crore. The backlog rose to ₹5,400 crore in 2024-25 and has touched nearly ₹6,000 crore in the current financial year, forcing several empanelled hospitals to stop providing treatment to beneficiaries, the Congress said.

The Congress demanded clearance of all pending bills immediately, restoration of the ECHS's administrative powers, and bringing the scheme under the Chief of Defence Staff.

Remarks by Minister's husband trigger row

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A controversy has erupted over a recent statement by the husband of an Uttarakhand Cabinet Minister that "girls are sold for ₹20,000 to ₹25,000 in Bihar".

The remark was made by Girdhari Lal Sahu, BJP leader and husband of State Women and Child Development Minister Rekha Arya, at a public event in Uttarakhand's Almora earlier this week.

Seeks apology

While the Minister and the Uttarakhand BJP are silent on the issue, the party's Bihar unit has demanded an apology from Mr. Sahu for disrespecting women of their State.

The Congress has also condemnded the remarks.

A video of the BJP leader's comments at the event has gone viral on social media. In the conversation, he was trying to persuade some young BJP members, present in the audience, to get married at the "right time". "You are young now, when are you getting married? In old age? If you're unable to get married....we will bring a girl for you from Bihar. There, you get girls for ₹20,000-₹25,000.".

Bihar State Women Commission chairperson Apsara condemned his statement and said the board had taken *suo motu* cognisance and issued a notice seeking an apology.

BJP, Shiv Sena leaders target Shah Rukh Khan after KKR inducts Bangladeshi player

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The inclusion of Bangladeshi cricketer Mustafizur Rahman in the IPL franchise Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), co-owned by actor Shah Rukh Khan, has sparked a controversy in Maharashtra.

Politicians and spiritual leaders slammed the actor for selecting a Bangladeshi player, given the attacks on Hindu minorities in Bangladesh.

Calling Bangladeshis "enemies", the Shiv Sena (UBT) said that if the actor retained the player in his team, it would mean that he did not understand the nation's sentiments.

"They [Bangladeshis] are terrorising the country, and Shah Rukh Khan should use this time to show gratitude towards the country. Boycott these players; choose Indian players," the Sena (UBT) said.

Shah Rukh Khan

The BJP criticised the KKR move as "treason". "In Bangladesh, Hindus are being tortured, killed, they are being thrown out of their homes, naked and beaten... Buying players from there is treason against the country. People like Shah Rukh Khan are traitors," BJP leader Sangeet Som said.

Sanjay Nirupam of the Shiv Sena criticised Mr. Khan and said, "For the last few months, the atrocities have hurt the sentiments of India. The Indian government needs to intervene in this. If Shah Rukh Khan doesn't want to get targeted, then he should remove the player."

Hindu spiritual leader Jagadguru Swami Rambhadracharya called Mr. Khan a "traitor".

There were voices in support of the *Chak De! India* star.

"Shah Rukh Khan is being targeted because he is Muslim; we still play cricket with Pakistani cricketers after Operation Sindoor. This is BJP-RSS' double-faced policy," Congress leader Bhai Jagtap said.

According to Trinamool Congress spokesperson Kunal Ghosh, not every issue needs to be politicised. "What will they achieve by targeting Shah Rukh Khan," he asked.

(With inputs from PTI)

TAMILNADU MINERALS LIMITED
(An Undertaking of Government of Tamil Nadu)
No.31, Kamarajar Salai, Chepauk, Chennai - 600 005.
Phone No.044-28415003, 28511972
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER WITH FORWARD BIDDING

1	Description	Sale of Certain Grades of Natural Graphite Flakes and D.E. Fines produced at Graphite Beneficiation Plant, Sivaganga, Tamil Nadu.
2	Tender No. & Date Tender ID	001/VAP-2/2026, Dated:02.01.2026 2026_TNMIN_638486_1
3	Bid submission end date	31.01.2026 upto 1600 hrs.
4	Technical bid opening date	02.02.2026 at 1600 hrs.
5	Tender Fee EMD amount	Rs.2,000/- (Rupees Two Thousand only) (Non-refundable) As per annexure-3 of tender document

Note: For further details please visit Tamilnadu e-tendering portal http://tntenders.gov.in
DIPR/006/TENDER/2026 GENERAL MANAGER (FINANCE)

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS-TIRUPATI
Office of the Chief Engineer TENDER NOTICE
ADV No.54/D3/CE/TTD/2025-26 & NIT No.913 & 914 /SE-II /TTD/ 2025 -26 dt:29-12-2025
Name of work:1) Providing Permanent Queue line from Batagangamma circle to GG Dam Circle with steel Foot-over bridges and Toilets along the outer ring road at Tirumala. Amount 1200.00 Lakhs, Time for Completion:6 months.(2) Improvements & Providing Granite flooring to Corridors and UPVC Windows in VSRH-I at Tirumala. Amount 650.00 Lakhs, Time for Completion:12 months. NOTE: For full details log on to the Website https://www.tirumala.org.
TTD-40021/10/2025-PRO SEC (Adv.No.342) Date:02-01-2026 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Regd Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala,
Website: www.pspcl.in)
Corporate Identification Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SGC033813
Contact Number: 9646123323
Tender Inquiry No. PPR-01/2026 Dated: 02.01.2026
Chief Engineer/PP&R Organization, Shed No. D-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-Tender under three-part bid system for PSPCL for Appointment of Consultant for Load Forecasting Automation Solution. For detailed NIT & tender specifications please refer to http://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 02.01.2026 onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at http://eproc.punjab.gov.in
C 10/26 1079/12/2025-26/6732

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Bengaluru Division,
2nd Floor, PWD Annexure Building, K.R. Circle,
Bengaluru-01, Phone: 080-22133370
No. 47/2025-26 Date: 01.01.2026
SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
Item-rate tenders, for the work in The limits of Bengaluru Division, No.2, North & Devanahalli Sub-Divisions under this office noted below, are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Rules 2000 and as per Standard Tender Documents for procurement of works from the contractors registered in K.P.W.D. as per KPPP. Tender Notification is Published for 05 works (Rs.10.00 to 950.00 Lakhs) Details of the tender works can be obtained from the above Office during office hours on working days. EMD & Tender processing fees are mentioned in KPP Portal http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
(1) Tenders must be submitted online through KPP Portal on or before 4.00 P.M. on: 08.01.2026 (2) The opening of tenders through KPP Portal on: 09.01.2026 at 4.30 P.M. or further date and time will be intimated. For more details contact this office.
Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/DD-C.P/4798/KSMCA/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF, RURAL WORKS, ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR
Letter No.42335, Dated : 22.12.2025 Email i.d. : crew_bbsr@yahoo.com
Notice inviting Request for Proposal under EPC Contract
(RFP-Online - CE (Buildings & Bridges)-01/ 2025-26 dt. 22.12.2025)
1. Name of the work : As mentioned in NIT
2. Total No. of Works : 02 (Two) no
3. Period of Completion : 30 Calendar Months
6. Other details : www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	No. of bridge works	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	To
Chief Engineer, Buildings & Bridges, Rural Works,Odisha, Bhubaneswar	RFP-Online-CE-Buildings & Bridges-01/ 2025-26	02 (Two) Nos.	06.01.2026 at 10.00 A.M	28.01.2026 Upto 5.00 P.M

Other details can be seen in the bidding documents, which will be available in website : www.tendersorissa.gov.in.
O-1885 : Chief Engineer (Buildings & Bridges), Rural Works, Odisha, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-25201/11/0001/2526

माध्यमिक शिक्षा बोर्ड, राजस्थान, अजमेर
ई-निविदा सूचना
बोर्ड परीक्षा 2026 के लिए परीक्षा केन्द्रों एवं उत्तर पुस्तिका संग्रहण केन्द्रों पर Turnkey Basis पर Live CCTV Cameras/ IP based camera Surveillance system हेतु खुली निविदा जिसकी अनुमानित लागत 3 करोड़ रूपये है, दिनांक 01.01.2026 से दिनांक 21.01.2026 अपरान्ह 3.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र विस्तृत विवरण बोर्ड वेबसाईट https://rajeduboard.rajasthan.gov.in. एवं राज्य सरकार उपापन पोर्टल https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in से डाउनलोड कर प्राप्त किये जा सकते है।
UBN NO - (SEB2526WSOB00028) सचिव

The Kerala Minerals & Metals Ltd
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam,-691583
Phone : +91-476-2651215 to 217, E-mail : md@kmml.com, URL: www.kmml.com
TENDER NOTICE
For more details, please visit E- Tendering Portal https://etenders.kerala.gov.in.or www.kmml.com

No	Tender ID	Items
1.	2026_KMML_825037_1	Manufacturing and Supply of Paper Valve Product Bags for KEMOX RC-800PG+, RC-813 and RC-822

Chavara. 02.01.2026 Sd/ Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
Municipal Corporation Amritsar
Tender Reference No. E-Tender Notice No. 127 Date 31.12.2025
The Department of : Municipal Corporation, Amritsar Invites Bid for Various Works.
Closing Date and Time : 16.01.2026 upto 03:00 PM
Opening of Technical Bid : 16.01.2026 upto 03:30 PM
EMD : 2% of Estimate Amount
For Detail log onto : https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
Note : Any Corrigendum(s) to the tender notice shall be published on the above website only.
Superintending Engineer(c)
Municipal Corporation,
Amritsar.
1596/12/2025-26/6703

Advertisement No. 118 / 2025
Government of India
Public Enterprises Selection Board
invites applications for the post of
Chairman & Managing Director
in
Yantra India Limited (YIL)
Last date of submission of application by applicants is by 15.00 hours on
19th January, 2026
Last date of forwarding of applications by the Nodal officers to PESB is by **17.00 hours on**
28th January, 2026
for details login to website
https://pesb.gov.in

INBRIEF

BJP accuses New York Mayor of interfering in India's affairs

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Friday accused New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani of "interfering" in India's internal affairs after he wrote a note to jailed activist Umar Khalid. Addressing a press conference, BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said India would not tolerate such actions and questioned Mr. Mamdani's *locus standi* to comment on the country's internal matters. Mr. Bhatia said the people of India had complete faith in the country's judiciary and asserted that if India's sovereignty were challenged, the nation would stand united under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Kashmir cricketer faces probe for displaying Palestine flag

The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Friday initiated a 14-day preliminary inquiry against a Kashmiri cricketer who displayed a Palestinian flag on his helmet during a match in Jammu. The move has drawn criticism from several political parties. The inquiry has been instituted under Section 173(3) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita. The cricketer has been identified as Furqan Ul Haq, a resident of Tangipuna in Pulwama district. He was representing the JK11 team and was playing against Jammu Trailblazers during the ongoing Jammu and Kashmir Champions League.

Centre has no plans to change land acquisition policy: Cabinet Secretary

Land acquisition a major issue in infrastructure development, says Somanathan; over 3,300 projects worth ₹85 lakh crore were taken up during review meetings under PRAGATI, he adds

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Land acquisition remained a major issue to resolve in infrastructure development, Cabinet Secretary T.V. Somanathan said here on Friday.

He was briefing reporters after the 50th meeting of the Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI), a mechanism to review implementation of infrastructure projects, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Mr. Somanathan said the Union government had no plans to change the existing land acquisition policy. The Cabinet Secretary, Secretaries of various Ministries dealing with infrastructure development, and the Railway Board's Chairman said in their presentations to the media that land acquisition was one of the major reasons for the pendency of various infrastructure projects across the country. Mr. Somanathan said PRAGATI reviewed over 3,300 projects worth ₹85 lakh crore. A total of 7,735 issues were raised during its meetings and 7,156 of them were resolved.

> There is no plan to change the land acquisition policy... All States, irrespective of the political dispensations, want to complete their projects and all chief secretaries have been very responsive in resolving issues
>
> **T.V. SOMANATHAN**
> Cabinet Secretary

Timely monitoring

Mr. Somanathan said that although the government had not calculated the savings due to the timely monitoring of the schemes, several projects – some started as early as the 1990s – were completed after the PRAGATI system was launched. Of the 7,156 issues resolved, the Cabinet Secretary stated that 35% were related to land acquisition, 20% to forest, wildlife, and environmental issues, and 18% to right of use/way. Other projects were delayed due to law and order, construction, power utility approvals, and financial issues.

"There is no plan to change the land acquisition policy," he said when asked if the government plans to change the law against the background of hurdles created by issues in land acquisition for infrastructure projects. "All States, irrespective of the political dispensations, want to complete their projects and all Chief Secretaries have been very responsive in resolving issues," he added.

He said initially issues were addressed at the Ministry level, while complex and critical issues were escalated through defined institutional mechanisms for higher-level review, culminating at PRAGATI meetings chaired by the Prime Minister.

"The escalation framework ensures coordinated inter-ministerial action, timely decision-making, and focused resolution of implementation bottlenecks in projects of national importance," he said, adding that PRAGATI ensured coordination between Central Ministries, coordination between States, Centre, and local governments, and coordination within the State governments.

Govt. to help teachers use AI; will ease open schooling framework

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill will go a long way in making these changes possible

The Union government plans to liberalise the country's open schooling framework, introduce guidelines to encourage the use of artificial intelligence in teaching, and draft technical education standards focused on ensuring employment and entrepreneurship for graduates. The Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, 2025, which aims to overhaul the regulatory framework for higher education, will go a long way in making some of these changes possible, Education Ministry officials said on Friday.

"There is a need to ensure that standards for technical education are set with a focus on centering it around equipping students with the skills to acquire jobs and start entrepreneurships. Similarly, in teacher education, artificial intelligence is something that must be accounted for," a senior Ministry official said.

The official said that such changes will be enabled through the overhaul proposed under the VBSA Bill, 2025, which will also subsume the functions of the National Council for Teacher Education.

The VBSA Bill was introduced in the 2025 Winter Session of Parliament and was met with objections from the Opposition, after which the government proposed that the Bill be sent to a Joint Committee of Parliament. While this committee is yet to be constituted, officials maintained that their hope was to bring the Bill for passage in the House by the end of this year's Budget Session.

The senior official added that a similar approach will be necessary for open schooling, which accommodates individuals of all age groups seeking to complete their secondary and higher secondary certifications. To this end, a second official said that talks are under way within the Education Ministry to "expand and liberalise" the National Institute for Open Schooling system.

First mountain tunnel breakthrough achieved in bullet train project: Minister

Snehal Mutha
MUMBAI

The 1.5-km tunnel is the longest among the seven planned in Maharashtra for the bullet train corridor. PTI

The first mountain tunnel breakthrough of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) project was achieved in Maharashtra's Palghar district, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced on Friday. The 1.5-km tunnel is the longest among the seven planned in Maharashtra for the bullet train corridor.

"On completion, the project will reduce travel time between Mumbai and Ahmedabad to just one hour and 58 minutes. It has facilitated the generation of employment and will integrate the economies of major commercial centres," Mr. Vaishnaw said. He added that India is likely to get its first bullet train on August 15, 2027.

Calling it a "milestone", Mr. Vaishnaw said, "This is the first mountain tunnel of the project in the State. The breakthrough has been achieved in an approximately 1.5 km long mountain tunnel (MT-5), located between Virar and Boisar bullet train stations."

According to the official statement, "The MT-5 tunnel was excavated from both ends, and the excavation was completed within 18 months using a cutting-edge drill and blast method." The 508-km MAHSR project has an overall tunnel length of 27.4 km. Among this, 21 km is underground tunnels, while 6.4 km is surface tunnels. Overall, the MAHSR has eight mountain tunnels, with seven tunnels alone in Maharashtra having a combined length of about 6.05 km, and one tunnel of 350 metres located in Gujarat.

Two arrested for raping 2 children of tribal labourers in Maharashtra

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

The accused were arrested on December 30 and have been sent to judicial custody

The Maharashtra Police have arrested two men for allegedly raping two minor girls, both children of migrant labourers belonging to the Gond community who had come from Chhattisgarh to Maharashtra's Beed to work in the sugar cane fields, on December 24.

Although the Beed police registered an FIR on December 29, the families are being pressured to withdraw the complaints, said activist Jeewan Rathore who is helping the families.

The accused, Ganesh Rajebhau Ghatul and Ashok Bhaskar Pawar, were arrested on December 30 and have been sent to judicial custody. The statement of the two girls will be recorded in the Majalgaon court on Saturday.

Mr. Rathore said that the two girls did not speak about the incident for four days as the two accused had threatened them with dire consequences.

The incident came to light when one of them needed medical attention after complaining of pain. Currently, the girls are in the custody of the Child Welfare Committee in Beed. The police have evoked sections of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, POCSO, and Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act in the complaint.

According to the FIR accessed by *The Hindu*, 14 people from the tribal community had come from Chhattisgarh's Rajnandgaon to Roshanpuri in Beed's Majalgaon, two months ago to work in the plantations. The two girls, aged 13 and 14, were part of the same group and accompanied their father and uncle respectively.

"They used to cook for the father and the uncle. They did not work in the fields. On December 24, the two accused youth – one a local shopkeeper, and the other a tractor driver who ferries labourers – came to their huts and dragged them to the fields. After raping them, they threatened the girls with dire consequences if they spoke about it," said Ashok Tangade, president of the Child Welfare Committee, Beed.

Mr. Rathore, member of a union fighting for the rights of sugar cane workers and transporters, said that he has been threatened for helping the family.

"The family is under pressure. They are poor landless labourers belonging to the Gond community. They are being forced to withdraw the complaint. I was threatened by people from the dominant caste and told not to interfere in this matter, that the labourers are from outside the State, that they have no power, and that I will have to be here among these people (accused)," he told *The Hindu*. He said the labourers lack access to clean water, healthcare, and shelter, adding that more than 5,000 landless labourers from Chhattisgarh move to Beed every year to harvest sugar cane.

When asked about the incident, Beed Superintendent of Police Navneet said, "The children are in Bal Graha. The accused are in magisterial custody. We will make sure that they are free from fear. They have not given any complaint so far about any threat. We will do everything legally and ensure that justice is served."

Kashmir chief cleric calls for dialogue to end conflict

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Kashmir's chief cleric Mirwaiz Umar Farooq was barred from leading prayers at the Jama Masjid in Srinagar on Friday and delivered a sermon online, where he said "the Kashmir conflict continues to keep the region in an unsettled state".

In his sermon, the Mirwaiz reflected on the year 2025. "Despite making unilateral changes in 2019, the reality is that the Kashmir conflict continues to keep the region in an unsettled state that can erupt anytime. That is why wars are paused, not ended, and dialogue finds no takers," he said.

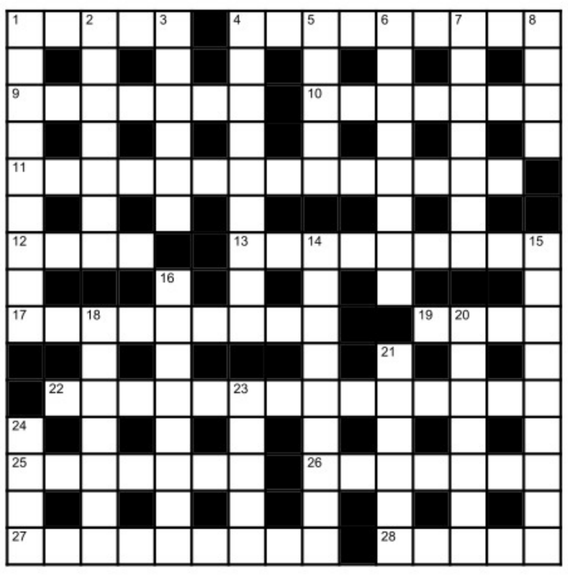
"I am committed to sincere efforts of dialogue. My path remains the same. Dialogue has worked elsewhere and our hope remains alive," the Mirwaiz added.

TH CROSSWORD + 14682

(set by Gussalufz)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://crossword.thehindu.com*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Munch quietly on cold meat (5)
4 Glands prone to release second dash of rheum before end of sneezes (9)
9 Painter's angrier production (7)
10 Tandoori chicken cooked without onion had flopped, that's fair (7)
11 November observance organised in December and May, mistakenly (11,3)
12 Woman set out after pocketing diamonds (4)
13 Minor U.S. assets restricting one's source of tax breaks (9)
17 Drug havens minus dope? Bizarre! (5,4)
19 Pasta, pizza win British, Irish hearts (4)
22 Reject gnu clone after trial in synthetic habitat (8,6)
25 Leaving body writhing, in goes killing squad's leader (7)
26 Popular team, now called "WI", backed regularly (7)
27 Startles Slytherin insiders with honesty (9)
28 Pulls rank, replacing premier with unknown assistant, essentially (5)

Down

1 Hot garlic oil that can be smoky? (9)
2 Frightened gangster with weapon (7)
3 Some cameraman apparently capsized in canal (6)
4 Bird's role on hill (9)
5 Old review in old language (5)
6 Time to join race-fit running group (small one) (8)
7 Line up crosshairs and attack veganism occasionally (4,3)
8 Provide reference over the phone, for position (4)
14 Was beverage wrongly emptied jamming a sink? (5,4)
15 Mean behaviour is rising (partially lessened in September) (9)
16 Is this setter guy friendly? (8)
18 Smooth transformation that turns female into male? (4,3)
20 In Germany, radicals at extreme left have matured towards centre? (7)
21 English writer, upper-class, by and large boring attention-grabber (6)
23 Numbers filmed by Steven Spielberg (5)
24 Pointless wager over origin of artifact in tourist destination (4)

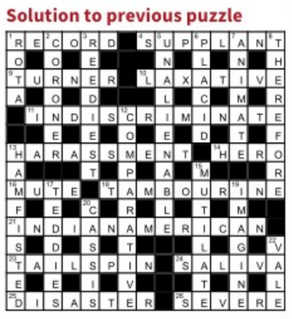
SUDOKU

9	3							
2					1	3		
	5			6			4	
				2	8	1		
6								5
		5	9	3				
	7			5			2	
		9	1					8
							1	3

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

No.SS6750 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	5	2	8	9	4	3	6	1
4	8	3	6	2	1	5	7	9
9	1	6	7	5	3	2	4	8
3	6	5	4	7	9	8	1	2
2	9	7	3	1	8	4	5	6
1	4	8	5	6	2	7	9	3
5	2	1	9	3	7	6	8	4
6	3	4	1	8	5	9	2	7
8	7	9	2	4	6	1	3	5

FAITH

Andal shows us the way

Sri Koorathazhwan states that we commit mistakes and sinful acts in a moment, but it may take thousands of years to erase them. Only by the grace of God can these sins be removed and purified. Velukudi Sri Krishnan Swami said in a discourse that we need the grace of the Acharyas, for they recommend us to the Lord, seeking His acceptance and forgiveness. Liberation is possible only through surrender – self-effort alone cannot save us. Nammazhwar teaches that one should first offer obeisance to Vedic scholars and celestial beings, and only then worship the Lord.

In the 16th verse of Tiruppavai, Andal stands before the Dwarapalakas and Kshetrapalakas, requesting them to let her enter the house of Nanda Gopa to wake up Lord Krishna. Scriptures tell us that eight Dwarapalakas and eight Kshetrapalakas guard the abode. Andal, assuming the role of a simple cowherd maiden, reminds them that during the Rasa Krida, Krishna Himself invited the Gopikas to come to Him whenever they wished. With this assurance, she pleads that they should not stop her. She adds that she has come only to render service to the Lord, just as Thondaradippodi Azhwar once sang Tiruppalli Ezhuchi to awaken the Lord from His divine sleep.

The inner message behind Andal's humble plea to the Dwarapalakas is to convey that one can attain the Lord only through the guidance, support, and blessings of the Acharyas. Their recommendation paves the way to reach God. Andal's humble appeal shows us that reaching God is not merely by one's own effort; it becomes possible only through the grace of Acharyas and noble guides. Their blessings and recommendations open doors to the Divine.

INBRIEF

Maruti produces more than 22.55 lakh vehicles in CY2025

Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. said it had produced more than 22.55 lakh units in calendar year (CY) 2025, its highest-ever production in a calendar year. "This is the second consecutive year that the company exceeded 20 lakh units in annual production," it said. The production includes vehicles for domestic sales, exports and OEM supplies. The top five models by production volume during the year were Fronx, Baleno, Swift, Dzire and Ertiga.

LIC rolls out revival campaign for individual lapsed policies

The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched a special revival campaign for individual lapsed policies. Under the campaign, from January 1 to March 2, up to 30% concession will be extended on late fee for all non-linked insurance plans up to a maximum of ₹5,000 if they are eligible for revival. Policies in a lapsed condition during the premium paying term and not completed policy term are eligible to be revived.

Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal can directly buy coal from CIL

State-owned CIL on Friday said buyers from neighbouring nations Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal can now join online coal auctions directly, skipping the Indian middlemen. The move will help in utilising the surplus coal resources better and promote transparency. Earlier, access to Coal India Ltd.'s (CIL) dry fuel by consumers across the borders was only through domestic coal traders who were allowed to buy and sell without any end-use restrictions. PTI

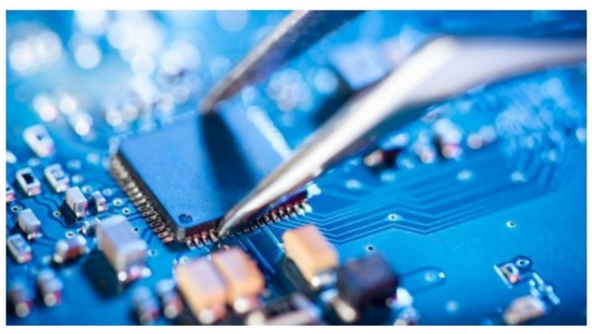
MeitY okays 22 more projects for electronic part sops

Projects approved amount to an investment of ₹41,863 crore; scheme is designed to push firms to be first to finish line to avail of the incentives

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) approved 22 new projects under the ₹22,919 crore Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS).

Under ECMS, companies making electronic parts will receive payouts based on incremental production and employment. The projects approved under Friday's tranche amount to a combined investment of ₹41,863 crore, the IT Ministry said.



Electronic boost: Small firms as well as established heavyweights would receive the incentives, says Vaishnaw. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Small firms in India as well as established heavyweights such as Tata Electronics Pvt. Ltd. would receive the incentives, according to IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

The payouts are likely to be a race, as the government will award incentives to firms who finish production roadmap first.

NTPC exploring international collaborations for nuclear plans

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

NTPC is exploring multiple international collaborations in the area of technology and fuel to push its nuclear ambitions to diversify energy generation.

NTPC is looking to set up around 30 GW of company-owned nuclear projects across various locations in the country in line with the government's ambition of having 100 GW nuclear capacity by 2047.

Sources said the firm is eyeing 2 GW of nuclear capacity as early as 2032.

Tech agreements

For technology, NTPC has entered into non-disclosure agreements with global energy players Rosatom and EDF to explore collaboration on deploying large pressurised water reactor projects in India, they said. Besides, NTPC and Holtec International are exploring the deployment of small modular reactors (SMRs) in future nuclear projects.

SMRs offer potential advantages in terms of modular construction, enhanced safety and suitability for phased deployment. NTPC is also evaluating a minority equity investment in U.S.-based Clean Core Thorium Energy.

Lacking lustre: HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index fell from 56.6 in November to 55.0 in December. REUTERS

Manufacturing PMI at 2-year low in Dec. on easing new orders

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Expansion in India's manufacturing performance slowed to a two-year low in December, with the rate of new business orders, production, and employment growth all slowing, as per a private sector survey.

The seasonally-adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index fell from 56.6 in November to 55.0 in December. The last time it was lower was in December 2023, when the index value had touched 54.9.

"The end of the 2025 calendar year was characterised by a loss of growth momentum across several measures tracked by the HSBC India Manufacturing PMI survey," HSBC India said in the report. "Positive demand trends continued to underpin sharp increases in new business intakes and production, but rates of expansion eased on the back of competitive pressures and subdued sales of specific items."

Specifically, the report said new work orders rose at the weakest pace since December 2023, output levels at the slowest pace since October 2022 while employment climbed at the slowest pace in the last 22 months.

"We have seen a steady spell of softer growth in new export orders," Pollyanna De Lima, economics associate director at S&P Global Market Intelligence, said. "In fact, the share of companies signalling higher international sales in December was about half of the average for 2025."

The data showed new export orders rose the least in 14 months in December 2025. The report added, in the few cases where growth was anticipated, the orders came from clients in Asia, Europe and the Middle East.

"Indian goods producers foresee an increase in output during 2026 relative to present levels, but the overall level of sentiment faded to its lowest in close to three-and-a-half years," the report said.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	FRIDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	85,762	0.67
US Dollar	90.20	-0.24
Gold	1,39,440	0.80
Brent oil	60.26	------

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2279.80	19.80
Adani Ports	1489.50	8.40
Apollo Hosp	7129.50	18.00
Asian Paints	2772.60	20.60
Axis Bank	1266.90	-7.50
Bajaj Auto	9502.50	-55.50
Bajaj Finserv	2038.40	1.40
Bajaj Finance	990.45	17.35
Bharat Elec	403.15	5.45
Bharti Airtel	2106.30	-4.10
Cipla	1511.60	10.70
Coal India	427.90	27.45
Dr Reddys Lab	1256.10	2.70
Hindustan Unilever	40.20	0.00
Eicher Motors	7334.50	-13.50
Eternal Ltd.	284.15	0.35
Grasim Ind	2856.40	4.70
HCL Tech	1640.20	5.70
HDFC Bank	1001.60	10.45
HDFC Life	754.85	4.75
Hindalco	925.70	30.75
Hind Unilever	2348.00	25.00
ICICI Bank	1355.40	17.40
IntGlobeAvi	5106.00	-4.50
Infosys	1640.40	10.60
ITC	350.05	-13.80
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	301.70	6.00
JSW Steel	1180.70	9.20
Kotak Bank	2195.10	-22.70
L&T	4163.40	23.00
M&M	3802.40	41.40
Maruti Suzuki	16960.00	252.00
Max Healthcare	1062.60	13.20
NestleIndia	1279.70	-15.30
NTPC	352.10	15.80
ONGC	241.46	3.52
PowerGrid Corp	270.95	4.15
Reliance Ind	1592.30	16.70
SBI Life	2067.40	27.00
State Bank	998.95	14.20
Shriram Finance Ltd.	1010.35	-9.35
Sun Pharma	1728.00	6.90
TataConsumerProduct	1170.70	-6.20
Tata Steel	182.88	0.99
TCS	3250.70	23.30
Tech Mahindra	1612.00	4.30
Titan	4051.70	2.40
Tata Motors PV	370.35	2.80
Trent Ltd.	4409.60	112.20
UltraTech Cement	11899.00	-2.00
Wipro	269.00	1.65

NHPC to raise ₹2,000 crore

NHPC announced plans to raise ₹2,000 crore via issuance of bonds in single or multiple tranches. The amount will be part of its borrowing plan for the ongoing financial year. PTI

Export Promotion Mission: Govt. unveils 2 more credit-linked plans

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Government introduced two new components in the Export Promotion Mission (EPM) aimed at easing and reducing the cost of the credit-access process for exporters.

This comes days after the Ministry of Commerce and Industry notified guidelines for a market access scheme under the EPM. With Friday's announcement, three of the 11 schemes under the EPM have been operationalised.

The two schemes would entail an outlay of ₹5,181 crore over six years until 2030-31. The two schemes were under the Niryat Protsahan category, which is meant to lower the cost of credit for exporters.

Export boost: The two schemes would entail an outlay of ₹5,181 cr. over six years until 2030-31. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Interest Subvention for Pre- and Post-Shipment Export Credit scheme will reduce the cost of export finance and "strengthens MSME liquidity, improve competitiveness and supports India's integration into global value chains, while ensuring fiscal prudence and compliance," the Ministry of Commerce said in its announcement.

Interest subvention

"Eligible MSME exporters can avail interest subvention on rupee export credit (pre- and post-shipment) extended by scheduled banks, in accordance with RBI Master Directions," it added. The second subscheme – Collateral Support for Export Credit – is aimed at giving MSME exporters the ability to access bank credit even with limited collateral or third-party guarantees.

The scheme would be implemented through the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) on a pilot basis and be applicable to export-linked working capital loans.

MSME exporters exporting notified tariff lines will be eligible for the collateral support.

Micro & small exporters would be eligible for up to 85% guarantee, while medium exporters would be capped at a 65% guarantee.

AYUSH DEPARTMENT
Danvanthri Road, Bangalore-560 009.
Phone: 080-22876553, Fax: 080-22340139
e-mail: directorayush@gmail.com

No: AYUSH/469/DLA1/2024 Date: 02-01-2026

Short Term Re-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

The Short Term Re-Tender in Two document systems invited from the tender inviting authority and Account Officer, Department of AYUSH, Bengaluru TENDER FOR PROVIDING TESTING/ANALYSIS SERVICE FOR AYUSH DRUGS ITEMS UNDER NAM SCHEME BY NABL ACREDITED LABORATORIES OR APPROVED BY THE COMPETANT AUTHORITY (FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR) as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act 1999-2000 Rules there under.

Calendar of Events

1.	The Tender document will be available from	02.01.2026 at 5:30 p.m.
2.	Last date & time for uploading tender documents through KPP Portal	12.01.2026 at 4:30 p.m.
3.	Date of opening of Technical Bid	13.01.2026 at 5:00 p.m.

For further details visit the official website: **https://kppp. karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Accounts Officer/Chairman
(Tender Inviting Authority)
Directorate of AYUSH. Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/RO4795/AAPL/2025-26

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES BANGALORE NAAC A+ Accredited
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Phone: GKVK : 2330153-250, Direct : 23332765
Email: eo@uasbangalore.edu.in Website:www.uasbangalore.edu.in

No. EO/SPO/e-Proc/13/2025-26 Date:30-12-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Portal Only)

The University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru has invited Tender in the prescribed form as per the Standard tender document KG-1, and KG-2, from the reputed firms for the procurement of Equipment's.

Blank Tender Documents can be downloaded from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**, **Last date and time for uploading the tender on 14-01-2026 up to 4.00 p.m. The Technical bid will be opened on 16-01-2026 at 10.30 a.m. The Financial bid will be opened on 19-01-2026 at 10.30 a.m.** in the Tender Committee room of Estate Office. Further details can be had from the office of the undersigned during working hours and also refer UAS Website: **www.uasbangalore.edu.in.** Help Desk- 91-8046010000, +91-8068948777 **support@eprochelpdesk.com.** The University reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons.

Sd/-
ESTATE OFFICER

DIPR/CP/JA/4805/2025-26

THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY,
(UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)
3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001

NOTICE/INVITATION FOR E-AUCTION FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Pursuant to attachment of Immovable properties by the Government under the provisions of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (KPIDFE Act) and pursuant to the absolute attachment order by the Hon'ble Special Court, the Special Officer & Competent Authority is issuing notice for e-auction of the immovable property through e-auction on 'as is where is and whatever there is basis'.
The intending bidders will be required to furnish Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (as mentioned against each auction in the e-portal provided by the Service Provider/Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only).

Short description of the Immovable Property (SPLOCA/AUC(2)/CR/18/2025-26)
Properties are free of all encumbrances and are in the name of Competent Authority appointed by Government and confirmed by the Special Court under KPIDFE Act, 2004. and Hon'ble High Court Of Karnataka has cleared the title (Khata stands in the name of Competent Authority and Auctioning Authority)

Sl. No.	DETAILS OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY (Clear Title by Court in order No. MISC No. 693/2019)	Minimum Bid Price (Rs)	EMD (Rs)	Bid Increase Value (Rs)
1.	All that piece and parcel of the Commercial Building bearing No.25 Old No.1/1, Lady Curzon Road, Shivaji Nagar, Bengaluru having PID No.79-46-25. Measuring East to West 110 ft and North to South 20 ft and aggregating 2200 sq.ft. bounded on East by: Lady Curzon Road, West by: Private Property, North by: Remaining Portion of Site No.25, South by: Property No.24 Vacant Place. Google Map link: https://maps.app.goo.gl/j3SWPPffpfBw3XNM6. Latitude and Longitude: 12°58'51.0"N 77°36'15.3"E.	9,69,95,000/-	97,00,000/-	9,70,000/-

Date of Pre-bid meeting & time and Place	Date of Inspection & time	Last Date of Submission of Bids & EMD submission	Date & Time of E Auction
21st January 2026, 3 pm to 4 pm Place: O/o SPLOCA, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Tower, Bengaluru-01	11th Febraury 2026 11:00am to 05:00pm	16th February 2026 Before 5pm	17th February 2026 11 am to 1 pm

For Registration & Online Auction, you can login to: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in (Helpdesk No: 080-46010000, 080-68948777) The interested bidders who require auction related information can contact Assistant Commissioner, Office of the Special Officer & Competent Authority, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Towers, Dr.Ambedkar Veedi, Bengaluru-560001, e-mail ID: splocaeauction@gmail.com or Contact Mob. No 9945515174.

Sd/-
Special Officer & Competent Authority
(Under KPIDFE –IMA & Other Scam) Bengaluru.

Date: 01-01-2026
Place: Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/4799/NR/2025-26

'Anticipating risks before they surface'

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The next phase of market development would be defined not just by scale, but by quality and sophistication, Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey said on Friday.

"Our priorities include continued strengthening of corporate governance standards, promoting sustainable finance and long-term value creation, encouraging innovation while keeping investor protection at the centre and responsible use of technology and data in market operations and supervision,"

Tuhin Kanta Pandey

he said. "As markets evolve emerging technologies– particularly artificial intelligence– along with deeper global linkages, bring new efficiencies but also fresh complexities. The next frontier therefore lies in anticipating risks before they surface," he emphasised.

'Gig economy reflects systemic inequality'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Days after the New Year's Eve protest by gig and delivery workers across the country, Zomato founder Deepinder Goyal on Friday said that the gig economy is a "reminder of systemic inequality", crediting it for purportedly "shattering" the "invisibility" of the poor's labour in India.

In what Mr. Goyal referred to as his "last one on the topic" in his series of statements on social media over December 31 protests, he argued this was the "first time in history at this scale" the working class and consuming class are

Deepinder Goyal

interacting face-to-face.

He went on to argue before gig work, "the rich could enjoy luxury without moral discomfort", adding that this "discomfort with our own selves is why we are uncomfortable about the gig economy". "Visibility is the price of progress", he posited.

SEOUL

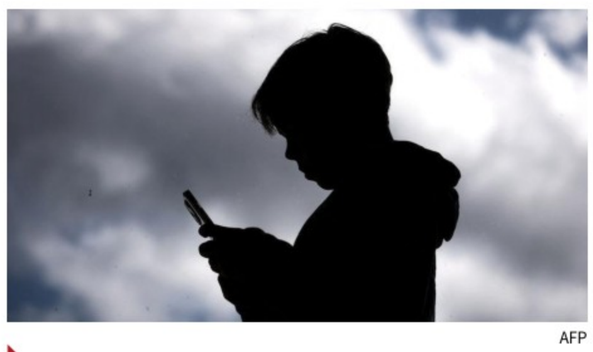
Kim Jong-un's daughter makes public visit to state mausoleum

AFP

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's daughter, Ju Ae, who is likely being prepared as his successor, accompanied her parents on her first public visit to the Kumsusan mausoleum to pay respects to former leaders. Ms. Ju Ae has been making increasingly prominent appearances in state media over the past three years. REUTERS

COLOMBO

Sri Lanka launches probe over English syllabus' gay website link



AFP

Sri Lanka launched a criminal investigation on Friday after a government syllabus for 11 and 12-year-olds directed pupils to a gay chat website to improve their language skills. The Grade Six English syllabus suggested pupils could find a pen-pal to improve their language skills via *buddy.net* — an online chat website. AFP

KARACHI

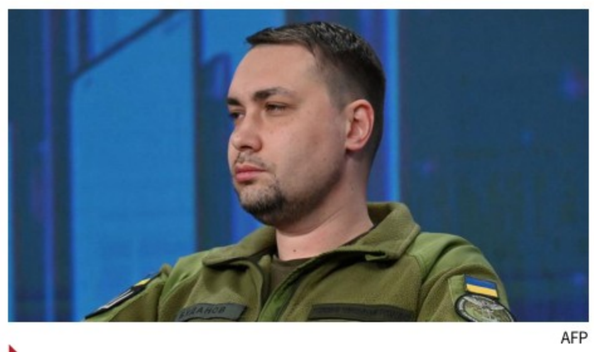
Pakistan permits Biman Airways to start direct flights to Karachi

AP

Pakistan's aviation authorities have issued permission to the Bangladesh national airline, Biman Airways, to start direct operations on the route of Dhaka-Karachi. According to a report on Friday in the *Jang* newspaper, permission has been given on a test basis for a period that will last until March 30. PTI

KYIV

Ukraine's Zelenskyy names spy chief Budanov as new top aide



AFP

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Friday named military intelligence chief Kyrylo Budanov as the new head of his office, after his previous top aide resigned in November over a corruption scandal. Mr. Budanov, 39, said he had accepted the nomination and would "continue to serve Ukraine". AFP

Pak. court awards life sentences for journalists, YouTubers over protests

The anti-terrorism court sentences seven persons to life for inciting violence and spreading hatred against state institutions during the 2023 riots; they were tried and convicted in absentia; rights groups and media organisations condemn verdict

Associated Press
ISLAMABAD

A court in Pakistan's capital sentenced seven persons, including three journalists, two YouTubers and two retired army officers, to life imprisonment on Friday, after convicting them of inciting violence during riots in 2023 and spreading hatred against state institutions.

An anti-terrorism court judge, Tahir Abbas Sipra, announced the verdict in Islamabad after completing trials held in absentia.

None of the accused were present in court. They have been living abroad after leaving the country in recent years to avoid arrest.

Journalists protest against 'curbs on press freedom' and 'excessive control of the digital landscape', in Karachi, in January 2025. REUTERS

Those convicted include former editor Shaheen Sehbai; two other journalists, Sabir Shakir and Moeed Pirzada; YouTubers Wajahat Saeed Khan and Haider Raza Mehdi; and retired army officers Adil Raja and Akbar Hussain.

According to the court order, the charges against the men stemmed from the violent unrest that erupted in May 2023 following the arrest of former Prime Minister Imran Khan in a graft case.

At the time, thousands of Mr. Khan's supporters attacked military installations, torched government property, ransacked the residence of a senior army officer and damaged the state-run *Radio Pakistan* building.

Mr. Khan was also indicted in 2024 on charges of inciting violence against military and government targets. He has denied the allegations. He was ousted from power by his political opponents through a no-confidence vote in Parliament in April 2022.

According to the prosecution, the seven men, who are known for publicly supporting Mr. Khan, had incited people to violence during the riots on May 9, 2023, when demonstrators targeted military installations, because Mr. Khan repeatedly blamed his removal on the United States and Pakistan's military.

The U.S. government, the Pakistani military and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who replaced Mr. Khan after his ouster, have denied the allegations.

Human rights defenders and representatives of journalists' unions say freedom of speech is shrinking in Pakistan.

Yemen separatists declare independence transition

Agence France-Presse
MUKALLA

Yemen's UAE-backed separatists announced a two-year transition to an independent state on Friday after seizing swathes of territory in a lightning offensive that triggered deadly air strikes by a Saudi-led coalition.

The surprise announcement means Yemen, which was divided into North and South from 1967 to 1990, could again be split by January 2028. The separatists plan to call the new country "South Arabia".

Southern Transitional Council (STC) president Aidaros Alzubidi said the transitional phase would include dialogue with Yemen's north – controlled by Iran-backed Houthi rebels – and a referendum on independence.

Supporters of the UAE-backed separatist Southern Transitional Council during a rally in Aden, Yemen, on Thursday. REUTERS

But on a day when seven separatist fighters died in air strikes, he warned the group would declare independence "immediately" if there was no dialogue or if southern Yemen again came under attack.

"We announce the commencement of a transitional phase lasting two years, and the Council calls on the international community to sponsor dialogue between the parties concerned in the South and the North," Mr. Alzubidi said in a televised address.

"This constitutional declaration shall be considered immediately and directly effective before that date if the call is not heeded or if the people of the South, their land, or their forces are subjected to any military attacks," he added.

Russian strike injures 19 in Kharkiv housing area, says Ukraine

Agence France-Presse
KHARKIV/KYIV

A Russian strike Friday on residential buildings in the major Ukrainian city of Kharkiv wounded at least 19 people, Ukrainian officials said.

The attack came a day after Russia accused Kyiv of a strike on a hotel and a cafe in Khorly in Ukraine's occupied south, killing 28 people, and warned of "consequences" – but Ukraine said the attack targeted a military gathering that was closed to civilians.

Kharkiv regional governor Oleg Synegubov said on Telegram after Russia's attack on Friday that "a total of 19 people suffered blast injuries, glass wounds, and abrasions", adding that a six-month-old baby was among them.

Ukraine has also ordered the evacuation of more than 3,000 children and their parents from 44 frontline settlements in the Zaporizhzhia and Dnipropetrovsk regions, a Ukrainian official said on Friday.

'Fountain candle' sparklers likely started Swiss bar fire which killed 40: prosecutor

Reuters
CRANS-MONTANA

A fire that tore through a bar at a Swiss ski resort killing at least 40 people likely started when "fountain candle" sparklers were held aloft too close to the ceiling, the region's chief prosecutor said on Friday.

Investigators are combing through the blackened ruins of the venue, examining videos on social media and interviewing survivors for clues on how the fire began in the early hours of New Year's Day in the bar and spread so fast.

Mourners gather near the site of a fire that ripped through a bar in Crans-Montana, during a New Year's celebration, on Friday. AFP

Witnesses have recounted seeing bar staff carrying sparkling fountain candles attached to bottles of champagne. The Valais canton's chief prosecutor, Beatrice Pilloud, said the sparklers were a leading line of enquiry that looked to be firming up.

"Everything suggests that the fire started from the burning sparklers ... that had been attached to champagne bottles and were moved too close to the ceiling," Ms. Pilloud told a news conference. "From there, a rapid, very rapid and widespread blaze ensued."

The probe will also focus on previous renovations at the Constellation bar and the materials used, the availability of adequate fire extinguishing systems and escape routes, and the number of people who were in the bar.

Maduro holds out olive branch to U.S., suggests serious talks

Reuters
MADRID

Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro has extended an olive branch to U.S. President Donald Trump, proposing serious talks on combating drug trafficking and offering U.S. companies ready access to Venezuelan oil.

Mr. Maduro said Venezuela was a "brother country" to the United States and a friendly government. He noted that when he and Mr. Trump last spoke in November, the U.S. President had acknowledged his authority by addressing him as "Mr. President".

The comments represent a shift in Mr. Maduro's tone towards the United States since the latter launched a large-scale military build-up in the southern Caribbean.

Mr. Trump has accused the "illegitimate" Maduro of running a narco-state and threatened to remove him from power. Mr. Maduro has vehemently denied links to crime.

Sport

Women's cricket is evolving fast, says former Lanka pacer Ratnayake

P.K. Ajith Kumar
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

He bowled Sri Lanka to its first-ever Test victory. That was in 1985, but four decades later, Rumesh Ratnayake still remembers how he got the better of a world-class Indian batting line-up that boasted the likes of Sunil Gavaskar, Dilip Vengsarkar and Mohinder Amarnath at Colombo.

The quick, who used to wear a white headband, took four for 76 and five for 49 to lead Sri Lanka to a historic 149-run win in the second Test at Colombo. The islanders went on to win the three-match series 1-0.

"For that series, we had wickets that were conducive to pace," said Ratnayake in an exclusive interview with *The Hindu*. "That was our strategy, but we probably would not have made pitches like that if we were playing Pakistan, though."

Ratnayake. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

Gavaskar had chosen to bat in the middle-order in that series, in which K. Srikkanth, debutant Lalchand Rajput and Ravi Shastri were the openers. "India had a great batting line-up those days, with Gavaskar, Amarnath and Vengsarkar, who had such a lazy elegance to his batting," said Ratnayake during Sri Lanka's women's T20I series against India. Incidentally, the final match in the series here was his last as the coach.

He had taken over when the team was going through a rough patch, some three years ago. Under him, the Lankan women beat South Africa in T20I series in South Africa and England and stunned India in the Asia Cup final.

"I was absolutely new to women's cricket and I accepted the job only after the then coach Hashan Tillakaratne, my friend, joined the Bangladesh team," said the man who took 149 wickets from 23 Tests and 70 ODIs.

"I saw potential in the team and I gave them confidence. I wasn't harsh on them when they made mistakes, like dropping a catch. In the very first match we played, against South Africa at the 2023 T20I World Cup, we won."

He believes women's cricket is evolving fast. "Some of the sixes you see in women's cricket today are almost as big as the ones that were scored by the men 30 years ago," he said.

Easy starts for Divyanshi and Ritvik

TABLE TENNIS

Press Trust of India
VADODARA

Defending champion Divyanshi Bhowmik, who had won the U-15 and U-17 girls' singles titles last year, opened her under-17 campaign by beating compatriot Neeza Kamat 11-4, 11-1, 11-2 in the Group 1 opener at the WTT Youth Contender on Friday.

In the boys' U-17 category, top seed Ritvik Gupta defeated Dhruva Malikarjunan 11-9, 11-5, 11-5 and then got the better of Shreyas Mankeshwar 13-11, 11-6, 11-7.

In the U-13 boys' category, Shaurya Goyal and Divija Paul posted wins.

Man City charge stalls at Sunderland, Liverpool held goalless by Leeds

PREMIER LEAGUE

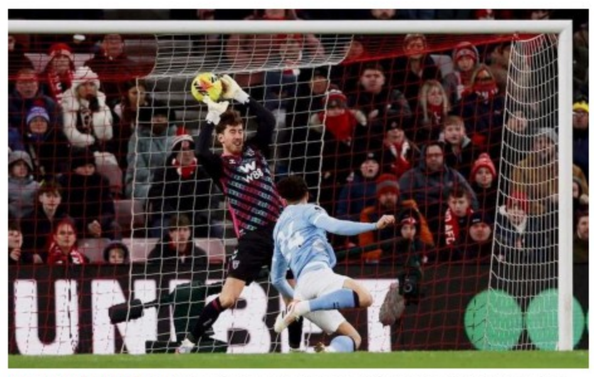
Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Manchester City trails Arsenal by four points at the top of the Premier League after failing to end Sunderland's unbeaten home record in a 0-0 draw on Thursday, while Liverpool was also held similarly by Leeds.

In a goal-shy start to 2026, three of the four New Year's Day fixtures ended without a goal as Tottenham also played out a 0-0 draw on Thomas Frank's return to Brentford.

City had won eight consecutive games to end 2025 and cut the gap on the Gunners to just two points.

A draw extended Leeds' unbeaten run to six games and takes it seven points clear of relegation zone.



Stupendous show: Roefs was in inspired form to deny Gvardiol. REUTERS

Fourth-placed Liverpool edged three points ahead of Chelsea and Manchester United in the battle for a place in next season's Champions League.

Crystal Palace boss Oliver Glasner said his depleted side is in "survival mode" after a 1-1 draw against Fulham extended its winless run to six games.

The results: Brentford 0 drew with Tottenham 0; Crystal Palace 1 (Mateta 39) drew with Fulham 1 (Cairney 80); Liverpool 0 drew with Leeds 0; Sunderland 0 drew with Manchester City 0.

THE MIX

Markram to lead SA in T20 WC; De Kock and Nortje included

FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

South Africa announced its 15-member contingent for the ICC T20 World Cup. **The squad:** Aiden Markram (Capt.), Quinton de Kock, Tony de Zorzi, Dewald Brevis, David Miller, Donovan Ferreira, Marco Jansen, Keshav Maharaj, Kagiso Rabada, Kwena Maphaka, Lungi Ngidi, Jason Smith, George Linde, Corbin Bosch, and Anrich Nortje.

BETTER NEWS

'Positive signs' on hospitalised Martyn, reveals Gilchrist

FILE PHOTO: S. SUBRAMANIUM

Former Australia Test batter Damien Martyn is showing "positive signs" after being hospitalised in an induced coma with meningitis, ex-teammate Adam Gilchrist said. "He's still in hospital. There'll be more details coming out as they come to hand but certainly in the last 24 hours there are some positive signs," Gilchrist said.

COLLECTIVE APPEAL

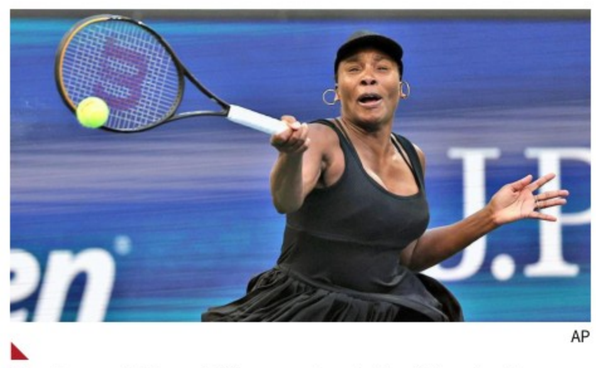
Indian footballers urge FIFA to intervene in ISL impasse

FILE PHOTO

India's leading footballers, including Sunil Chhetri, along with several foreign players featuring in the ISL, made a collective appeal to FIFA, urging the world governing body to intervene as the country's top-tier league remains suspended indefinitely. The players voiced concern over the prolonged uncertainty.

WILDCARD ENTRY

Venus, 45, set to become oldest woman to play at Australian Open



AP

The 45-year-old Venus Williams was handed a wildcard to the Australian Open, becoming the oldest woman ever to play at the season-opening Grand Slam. The American will compete in the main draw for the first time since 2021. "I'm excited to be back in Australia and looking forward to competing," said Venus.

Royals hand Soorma third straight loss

Rutuja draws first blood for the Ranchi outfit while Sakshi's strike, six minutes from time, seals the deal; Madhuri saves a penalty stroke

Opening salvo: Rutuja showcased superb skill to put Royals ahead. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

WOMEN'S HIL

Sports Bureau

Ranchi Royals defeated JSW Soorma Hockey Club 2-0 in their Women's Hero Hockey India League encounter in Ranchi on Friday. Rutuja Pisal (30) and Sakshi Rana (54) found the mark as Royals notched up their second win while Soorma slumped to its third loss in a row.

Soorma showed great attacking intent in the opening quarter.

It won the first penalty corner of the evening, but Penny Squibb's shot was stopped by the first rusher.

In the 25th minute, Royals' Ishika committed a foul inside the circle, giving away a penalty stroke. However, Squibb was denied by Madhuri Kindo. With seconds left in the first half, Royals drew first blood. Agostina Alonso played a powerful pass into the circle from midfield and Rutuja showcased superb skill to poach the ball perfectly and deflect it in.

Royals doubled the lead with a superb field goal as Sakshi unleashed a powerful strike from a tight angle into the top right corner of the goalpost with six minutes remaining.

Marijne back as India women's team coach

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

Sjoerd Marijne. FILE PHOTO

Indian hockey would be hoping to turn over a new leaf in the new year after Hockey India on Friday officially confirmed former chief coach Sjoerd Marijne's return to the national women's team.

This comes a month after Harendra Singh had quit following complaints of harassment and ineffective training by the players.

Marijne, who led the Indian women to a historic fourth place finish at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, had been spoken of as a possible replacement even before Harendra's resignation happened.

The Dutchman will have the unenviable task of repeating his magic in three months, when the women participate in the Hyderabad World Cup qualifiers in March. More interesting, however, is the support staff he will be bringing with him in his second term with the team, which will officially be till the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics as per the contract.

Former Argentina defender and Olympian Matias Vila will join as the analytical coach, while Wayne Lombard, widely credited with the Indian team's impressive fitness standards four years ago, will come on board as the head of athletic performance. Lombard will be assisted by South Africans Rodet Yila and Ciara Yila as scientific advisors.

Fresh energy

"It's great to be back. After nearly four and half years, I return with fresh energy and a clear vision to support the team's growth and help the players achieve their full potential on the world stage," Marijne said in a statement.

He is scheduled to arrive on January 14 and take immediate charge with the preparatory camp beginning January 19.

Hockey India, meanwhile, is also on the lookout for a new junior women's team coach following the exit of Tushar Khandker after similar accusations of sexual, mental and physical misconduct.

Ideal platform to showcase talent, feel HIL captains

The big prize: The captains pose with the trophy on Friday. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

You don't inspire your teammates by showing them how amazing you are. You inspire them by showing them how amazing they are – Robyn Benincasa, adventure racer and motivational speaker.

For the eight Indian captains of the Hockey India League (HIL), which begins at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium here on January 3, the league offers an ideal platform to do exactly that – bring out the best in their teammates, both Indian and foreign.

The Chennai leg of the league will conclude on January 9, after which the action shifts to Ranchi (January 11 to 16) and Bhubaneswar (January 17 to 26).

For Harmanpreet Singh, captain of India and JSW Soorma HC, expectations are understandably high. Whether representing club or country, the objective is to win, he said.

"There is no added pressure, to be honest. On the contrary, it's good that one gets the opportunity to play with juniors, and it's good for them too," he said.

The captains were unanimous in their view that the HIL provides a crucial opportunity for youngsters to showcase their talent and push for national selection, with major tournaments such as the FIH Pro League, Asian Games and World Cup on the horizon.

"This is a very important step for us and HIL will help identify the best players," said Manpreet Singh, captain of Ranchi Royals. "In the next few months, we will have major International tournaments, including the World Cup (August) and Asian Games (September). So we will try and field our best team for the two big events."

Manpreet also underlined the importance of spreading the league across multiple venues. SG Pipers features the highest number of players – four – who took part in the Junior World Cup held in Tamil Nadu last month.

Gill set to return; Kishan in the race

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Gill. FILE PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

Shubman Gill is set to return as India's ODI captain, while his deputy Shreyas Iyer is likely to remain on the sidelines when the national senior selection committee finalises the squad for the three-match series against New Zealand.

The selection panel is scheduled to meet online on Saturday. *The Hindu* understands that Gill, who missed the recent ODI series against South Africa after suffering a neck spasm during the opening Test, will also attend the first official selection committee meeting of the calendar year.

Gill's return is expected to result in Dhruv Jurel – who was drafted in as a reserve batter for the South Africa series – making way for the opener.

Shreyas, out of action since hurting his abdominal muscles in the third ODI in Australia in October, had been targeting a comeback, but delay in his rehabilitation means that the middle-order batter is yet to receive medical clearance from the BCCI's Centre of Excellence.

The only other possible change could be the return of Ishan Kishan in place of Rishabh Pant as the reserve wicketkeeper-batter. Kishan has already been recalled to India's squad for the five-match T20I series against the Kiwis later this month as well as the T20 World Cup.

The Kishan case

It is understood that the selection panel feels that Kishan, despite proving his credentials in the 50-over format during the ongoing Vijay Hazare Trophy, should be given sufficient time to settle down in the Indian dressing room following a two-year absence.

The bowling department is unlikely to see any changes, having delivered consistently in the six ODIs so far this season.

Fit-again Nagal hopes for a golden reset in the new year

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Rectify and revise: Nagal closed his 2025 campaign early to tweak his training and preparation. FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

On December 30, Sumit Nagal put out on X a photograph of him getting out of a car and captioned it: "Thanks for the bumpy ride, 2025".

It aptly reflected a period during which he did not win a single title and slid from being inside the top-100 in January to No. 277 by December.

In a sense, his whole career has been one long bumpy ride. Injuries, illnesses and below-par form have ensured that he has completed very few seasons without breaking down.

The 28-year-old, however, is hoping that 2026 would be different. He has tweaked his training and preparation methods by closing his 2025 campaign earlier than normal and giving himself a sufficiently long pre-season.

"It is one of the best preseasons I have had," Nagal told select media ahead of the Bengaluru Open ATP 125 Challenger which begins on Monday. "It was five-six weeks long and we worked a lot on my body and tennis."

The jam-packed ATP calendar doesn't give a player enough space between tournaments. This aspect appears to have hindered Nagal from building on his highs.

At the 2024 Australian Open, he beat World No. 27 Alexander Bublik. Then, he won the 2024 Chennai Challenger to break into the top-100.

And at the 2024 Monte Carlo Masters, he dragged World No. 7 Holger Rune to three sets. But the follow-up acts in 2025 never materialised.

"I'm not very gifted with height [to get a big serve in]. So I need to work a lot on my points. This could be one reason that the body gets tired," Nagal opined.

"So we are going to do small training blocks throughout the year so that I don't lose the base [level of fitness and tennis skill]. Earlier, I would play as many tournaments as I could. I am not going to make that mistake again," he added.

At 28, tennis careers tend to plateau. But Nagal feels he still has a lot left.

"I would love to compete for the next six, seven years at the high level, where I am playing Slams," he said. "If I don't [play Slams], I don't really know. But as of now at least till 35."

In that quest, a repeat of his title-winning run in the Garden City from 2017 will signal a golden reset.

SNAPSHOTS

Bashir, Potts included for final Ashes Test

Seamer Matthew Potts and spinner Shoaib Bashir were included in the 12-member England squad announced on Friday for the fifth Ashes Test against Australia to be played in Sydney from Sunday.

The squad: Ben Stokes (Capt.), Shoaib Bashir, Jacob Bethell, Harry Brook, Brydon Carse, Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Will Jacks, Matthew Potts, Joe Root, Jamie Smith, Josh Tongue.

Greece too good for Japan; Argentina topples Spain

Stefanos Tsitsipas found his winning touch on his return to action from injury as he led Greece to a 3-0 win over Japan in group play at the ATP-WTA United Cup in Perth on Friday. Earlier, Sebastian Baez and Solana Sierra led Argentina to a 3-0 defeat of Spain.

The results: Group A: Argentina bt Spain 3-0 (Sebastian Baez bt Jaume Munar 6-4, 6-4; Solana Sierra bt Jessica Bouzas Maneiro 6-4, 5-7, 6-0; Maria Carle & Guido Andreozzi bt Yvonne Reimers & Inigo Cervantes 7-6(6), 6-2).

Group E: Greece bt Japan 3-0 (Maria Sakkari bt Naomi Osaka 6-4, 6-2; Stefanos Tsitsipas bt Shintaro Mochizuki 6-3, 6-4; Sakkari & Tsitsipas bt Nao Hibino & Yasutaka Uchiyama 6-3, 6-3).

PWL auction today

Several top wrestlers, including Aman Sehrawat, Antim Panghal, Yui Susaki, Yusneylis Guzman Lopez and Iryna Koliadenko, will be among the 250-plus grapplers who will go under the hammer at an auction in New Delhi on Saturday for the Pro Wrestling League, scheduled from Jan. 15.

First strike: Baez starred in Argentina's win over Spain with a victory against Munar. AFP

Khawaja with wife Rachel and daughters Aisha and Ayla. AP

Khawaja to retire after Sydney Test

Associated Press
SYDNEY

Veteran Australia batter Usman Khawaja has announced he will retire from international cricket after the fifth Ashes Test beginning on Sunday at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

The Pakistan-born Khawaja, who became the first Muslim to play for Australia, used his retirement announcement to criticise the "racial" stereotyping he experienced.

Khawaja said he felt he was treated "a little bit different even now" because of his Muslim background. "Different in the way I've been treated, different in how things have happened," he said.

It will be the 39-year-old's 88th and final Test at the ground where he began his First Class career.

KBA set to mend fences with BAI soon, says Kumar

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Newly elected Karnataka Badminton Association (KBA) president Kumar Bangarappa stated that the KBA is keen to mend a tenuous relationship with the Badminton Association of India (BAI), which led to a temporary disaffiliation from the national body in 2022.

"We have requested the BAI to take us back. There is a court case filed from both sides – the KBA and BAI. We will amicably settle this," Kumar said in a press meet here on Friday.

Kumar, son of former Karnataka Chief Minister S. Bangarappa, added that KBA office bearers will meet the BAI president and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma soon in an effort to resolve differences.

Kumar Bangarappa.
ASHWIN ACHAL

Tie up with KSCA

Kumar stated that the KBA intends to tie up with the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) to use the latter's player rehabilitation facilities.

"The KSCA is the role model for player rehabilitation. I will speak to the KSCA president (Venkatesh Prasad) about our international badminton players using the facility," Kumar said.

While there are 31 districts in Karnataka, only nine have associations under the KBA umbrella. Kumar explained that if the sport must spread to every corner of the State, all districts must fall under the KBA purview.

"All 31 districts must have recognised badminton associations – this is a task we are undertaking on priority," Kumar said.

SMAT title biggest moment in my career, says Anukul

The quintessential team man, who played a key role in Jharkhand's maiden triumph in the T20 championship, has been in fine form both with the bat and ball in the Hazare Trophy as well

CRICKET

M.R. Praveen Chandran
AHMEDABAD

For Anukul Roy, personal milestones are always secondary to his team's success.

Whether with the bat or ball, the 27-year-old believes in delivering his best for the team. A quintessential team man, Anukul was one of the heroes for Jharkhand in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT) triumph, with 303 runs, 18 wickets and nine catches.

On the ball: Anukul says that he tweaks his game according to match situations. FILE PHOTO: VIJAY SONEJI

Game-changing knock

In the ongoing Vijay Hazare Trophy, Anukul has already played a game-changing knock with the bat – an unbeaten 98 against Pondicherry – and has tied down the batters in the middle overs with his disciplined bowling.

"You can't court success without hard work. For me it began in the pre-season camp we had before the Buchi Babu Trophy.

"I know my role in the team and I tweak my game according to match situations. I stick to the basics and bowl to the field.

"While batting I ensure that I don't get bogged down and don't mind taking the odd risk.

"We were in a spot against Pondicherry. But credit to (captain Kumar) Kushagra for making it easier for me. I knew I had the shots to finish the innings on a high," said Anukul.

"It has been a great season for Jharkhand. The icing on the cake was definitely the SMAT title win. It was easily the biggest moment in my career.

The bonus

"The Player-of-the-Series award was a bonus. But we still have some unfinished business to do this season. For me I would like to play regularly in (the) IPL.

"Right now I am the second- or third-choice spinner in my IPL team (Kolkata Knight Riders), but I want to be the premier spinner and will work hard to reach that level," said the former India under-19 player.

VIJAY HAZARE TROPHY — SATURDAY'S FIXTURES

Elite: Group A (Ahmedabad): Rajasthan vs. Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand vs. Kerala, Madhya Pradesh vs. Pondicherry, Karnataka vs. Tripura.
Group B (Rajkot): Jammu & Kashmir vs. Uttar Pradesh, Baroda vs. Vidarbha, Chandigarh vs. Hyderabad, Assam vs. Bengal.
Group C (Jaipur): Punjab vs. Sikkim, Chhattisgarh vs. Himachal Pradesh, Goa vs. Uttarakhand, Maharashtra vs. Mumbai.
Group D (Bengaluru): Railways vs. Saurashtra, Andhra vs. Gujarat, Haryana vs. Odisha, Delhi vs. Services.
Plate (Ranchi): Bihar vs. Mizoram, Manipur vs. Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh vs. Nagaland.

Sai Sudharsan out for a few weeks

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu batter B. Sai Sudharsan will be out of action for at least a few weeks after suffering a rib injury during the Vijay Hazare Trophy game against Madhya Pradesh last week.

The southpaw is now at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru, where he is undergoing rehab. Sai Sudharsan injured himself when he dived to complete a run during his knock of 51. He retired hurt, came back to bat again towards the end, and was the last TN batter dismissed in that game, which his side lost by two wickets. Earlier last year, Sai Sudharsan made his Test debut and has featured in six games for India.

Meanwhile, TN, which has lost three of its four matches, will be strengthened for the next two games, with Washington Sundar and Varun Chakaravarthy set to feature against Rajasthan (Saturday) and Tripura (Tuesday). The BCCI has asked the duo to play these games ahead of the white-ball series against New Zealand, which starts on January 11.

SNAPSHOTS

Champion: Jain University defeated SRM University (Chennai) in the final to emerge as the South Zone inter-university basketball championship for women held at Christ University indoor basketball court. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

East Bengal routs Nita FA, goes top of the table

KOLKATA: Defending champion East Bengal FC drubbed Nita Football Academy 5-0 in a fifth-round IWL match to top the standings on Friday.

The results: At Kalyani: East Bengal FC 5 (Sulanjana Raul 6, Soumya Guguloth 42, Resty Nanziri 50, Fazila Ikwaput 63, Priyangka Devi Naorem 88) bt Nita Football Academy 0; Kickstart FC 2 (Loveth Njideka Edeh 81, Babysana Devi 85-pen) bt Sribhumi FC 1 (Yumnam Kamala Devi 12-pen).

At NCE, Kolkata: Sethu FC 5 (Martina Thokchom 24, Kaviya Pakkirisamy 27, Lisham Babina Devi 35, Lynda Kom Serto 65, Ruchi 72) bt Sesa Football Academy 0; Gokulam Kerala FC 1 (Shilji Shaji 21) drew with Garhwal United FC 1 (Deepika Pal 52).

Kashvi smashes unbeaten 142 in Karnataka women's facile win over U.P.

KOLKATA: Kashvi Kandikuppa scored an unbeaten 142 as Karnataka beat Uttar Pradesh by 134 runs in the BCCI U-15 women's One Day Trophy here on Friday.

The scores: Karnataka 299/5 in 35 overs (Kashvi Kandikuppa 142 n.o., Yashika K. Gowda 87) bt Uttar Pradesh 165/9 in 35 overs (Minakshi Yadav 59).

Karnataka begins its chase well

VALSAD: Karnataka moved to 160 for three in reply to Gujarat's 451 on the second day of their Cooch Behar (under-19) Trophy quarterfinal here on Friday.

The scores: Quarterfinals: Gujarat 451 in 117.4 overs (Manas Dave 184, Malay Shah 78, M. Chavda 41, Kavya Patel 43, B.R. Rathan 4/120) vs. Karnataka 160/3 in 60 overs (Dhruv Krishnan 82, Aadesh Urs 39).

Arvind and Sanjana to lead State basketball teams

BENGALURU: A. Arvind and Sanjana Ramesh will lead the Karnataka teams in the 75th senior National basketball championship for men and women which commences in Chennai on Sunday.

The squads: Men: A. Arvind (Capt.), Pratyanshu Tomar (vice captain), Anil Kumar, M. Aaron, Shashank Rai, Abhishek Gowda, S. Sumanth, Dheeraj Reddy, B.M. Manoj, S. Bathesh, Likith Bopanna, P.K. Gautham; **head coach:** M.C. Thankachan; **assistant coach:** B.C. Umashankar.
Women: Sanjana Ramesh (Capt.), H.M. Bhandavya (vice captain), Sruthi Arvind, S. Sobhana, Ruth Anna, Aadhya Gowda, Mahek Sharma, Bindushree Gowda, Nidhi Umesh, Sanika Venkatesh, Shravani Shivanna, T.A. Mansa; **coach:** S. Jayavanthi; **assistant coach:** Mohan Kumar.

Easy for Sniper FC

Sniper FC defeated DYES FC 4-1 in the BDFA 'A' division football league here on Friday.

Other results: Snipers FC bt DYES FC 4-1; Income Tax FC drew with AGORC FC 1-1; RWF FC bt FC Deccan 2-0.

LIVE TELECAST

Vijay Hazare Trophy: JioHotstar, 9 a.m.
HIL: (Women), Sony Sports Ten 1 & LiV, 5 p.m. & Men: 7.30 p.m.
The Ashes: 5th Test, day 1, Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar 5 a.m. (Sunday)